

Quarter Four

Beyond the Hill

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians



The story of Jean-Marc Carisse

B.C. reunion

Unsung heroes behind the Hill

Educational dinner raises \$130,000

Living it up, West Coast Style



Above: Say cheese! The group poses on the tour of B.C. lovely legislative buildings.

Below: Stan and Eileen Graham and Nicholas and Margaret Taylor at the B.C. Legislature. Fred and Audrey King with Lt. Gov. Steven Point.



From where I stand

By Keith Penner

Pierre Burton once noted that Canadians, like the people of no other country, debate endlessly about who they are. Marshall McLuhan thought that all the fuss about it was a waste of time since, as he said, “Canada is the only country in the world that knows how to live without an identity.”

Extensive polling on the subject, however, has shown that Canadians do believe that we have a unique identity, even though there is no agreement as to what constitutes it.

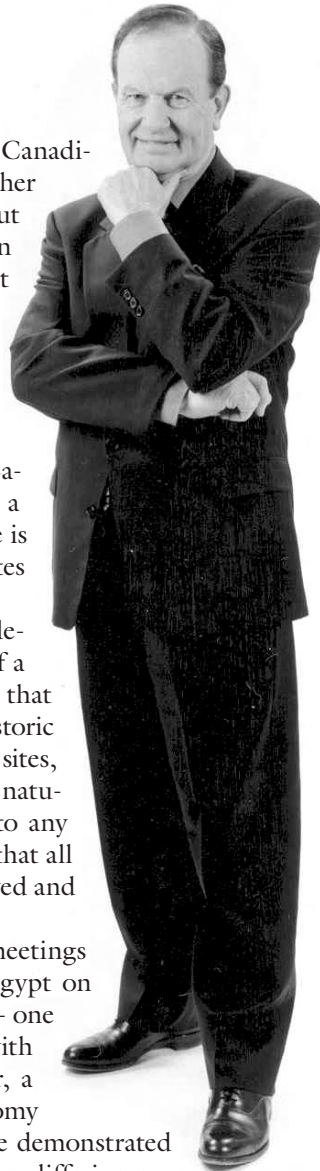
Leaving aside the details of the debate as to what are the elements of a Canadian identity, it can be agreed that the pieces of our past, as seen in historic buildings, monuments, historical sites, museums, national parks and the natural environment, are all essential to any description of who we are. To say that all of these must be protected, preserved and enhanced is to state the obvious.

Recently, I attended a series of meetings in Ghana and then went on to Egypt on business. Both of these countries – one a poor, struggling African nation with a wretched history, and the other, a rapidly developing modern economy with a rich and ancient past – have demonstrated the need to develop and display the differing aspects of their heritage.

It has been observed by some, by way of contrast, that the Canadian heritage in certain of its manifestations has shown signs of shoddiness. Public buildings, the gravesites of our former Prime Ministers and even the condition of the flag flown at different locations appear to be subjected to indifference and even neglect. If any of this is true, does it really matter that much?

Canadians, it has been argued, have other priorities. Our citizens and their leaders are focused on such matters as making our economy more productive, lowering the tax burden, having better medical care and improving systems of education. These are the issues that matter much more than being worried and concerned about the physical survival of our past.

A person who occupies a house that is falling down and partly in ruin may, on the inside be working on many grand ideas and noble schemes. To those on the outside, though, that which comes out of that shoddy residence may be somewhat suspect.



In this issue

From where I stand by Keith Penner	3
From the Chair's desk by Doug Rowland	4
Letters to the Editor	6
CAFP asked to participate in Queen's study by Francine Garneau	7
Association launches new website by Mark Masters	7
Seeing Canadian politics through the lens of Jean-Marc Carisse by Francine Garneau	8
Lyn Murta's Drumstick Dessert by Lyn Murta	9
No passion for wine, but a passion for life by Nicolas Tremblay	10
Taking lessons from Canada's parliamentary system abroad by Nicolas Tremblay	11
New Chief Electoral Officer vows to increase voter turnout by Katie DeRosa	12
Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments by Nicolas Tremblay	13
Educational Foundation dinner raises \$130,000 by Francine Garneau	14
Derek Burney tells it like it is by Francine Garneau	15
Educational Foundation dinner in pictures Photos by Katie DeRosa	16
Business and fun West Coast style by Auguste Choquette	18
Speech from new B.C. Lieutenant Governor gets warm reception by Katie DeRosa	19
Staying in touch: Victoria edition by Katie DeRosa	20
Gordon Smith on Canada in Afghanistan by Katie DeRosa	22
Strong partnership with American Association by Mark Masters	23
Election rules and changes over the years by Katie DeRosa	23
Doing politics in Manitoba by Dorothy Dobbie	24
Doing politics in P.E.I. with George Proud by Katie DeRosa	25
Senator Neiman remembers by Katie DeRosa	26
Famous walks in Canadian history by Keith Penner	27
French Kiss: Stephen Harper's blind date with Quebec by Bob Ringma	28
Peter Adams on thick ice by Joe Jordan	29
The Mulroney years by Mark Masters	30
The fight for democracy by Robert Miller	31
Seventeen months make a lifetime impression by Terry Grier	32
Political passages by Mark Masters	33
In closing Mr. Speaker by Keith Penner	34



International work, education, the upcoming AGM

by Doug Rowland, Chairman

Third Annual Fundraising Dinner

The Honourable **Doug Frith**, ably assisted by **Torrance Wylie**, **Susan Simms**, **Céline Brazeau-Fraser** and **Julie Mertens** produced another resoundingly successful fundraising dinner in the LeBreton Gallery of the Canadian War Museum.

Held on Nov. 14 and chaired by **Speaker Peter Milliken** with **Mr. Derek Burney** as guest speaker, the dinner netted \$145,000 for our Educational Foundation. Thanks again **Doug Frith** and company! *See the report in this edition.*

International Work

The third IEMI training event for election observers, conducted in French, was held in Ottawa, Dec. 10 to 11. The session was once again organized on our behalf by CANADEM and directed by **Alisha Todd** of that organization.

CAFP members participating were the **Honourable Eleni Bakopanos**, **Lise Bourgeault**, **Auguste Choquette**, the **Honourable Paul DeVillers**, **Léo Duguay**, **Jean-Guy Hudon** and **Henri Tousignant**.

From the United States Association were the **Honourable Jim Bates** and the **Honourable Jim Moody**, while the European Association was represented by **Christine Oddy** and **Anthony Simpson**.

We were once again invited by the International Alliance for Justice and No Peace Without Justice, acting in cooperation with the Iraqi and Kurdistan National Assemblies and the Italian

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to send a representative to a seminar held in Venice entitled "DIVERCITIES". The seminar addressed issues of governance arising in urban settings characterized by diverse religious, cultural, economic and educational backgrounds. The **Honourable Jean Augustine** represented us from Dec. 18 to 21, 2007. In January, **Darryl Gray** represented the CAFP and IEMI on an election observation mission in the country of Georgia organized by the National Democratic Institute. His report will appear in the next issue of *Beyond the Hill*. **Jim Hart**, another of our members, is NDI's resident director in Georgia.

On Dec. 4, the CAFP, the Parliamentary Centre and Rights and Democracy jointly sponsored a roundtable in Ottawa on Political Party Development. **Mr. Razmik Panossian** from Rights and Democracy and I co-chaired the event, which was attended by representatives from each of the three sponsoring organizations as well as from the Centre for Democratic Studies of Queen's University (which provided the *rapporteur*), CIDA and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

We were also privileged to have the participation of the Executive Director of the Westminster Fund for Democracy, **Mr. David French** and **Mr. Tom Carothers** of the Carnegie Endowment Fund. The report of the seminar can be found on the CAFP website at www.exparl.ca.

CAFP members in attendance were **the Honourable Mary Collins**, **Léo Duguay**, **Bill Knight**, **Francis LeBlanc**, the **Honourable Jack Murta** and myself.

Research on Decision-making

We have received a request from Queen's University and collaborators at Ohio State University and the Center for Experimental and Social Science at New York University to arrange for some of our members to participate in research into decision-making. The coordinator for the project is **Steven Lehrer** of Queen's University.

Originally, the research was to be conducted in Ottawa in January using only members from the National Capital Region. Fortuitously, difficulties encountered in organizing that event led to it being rescheduled to coincide with our Annual General Meeting in May, thus opening it for participation to members attending the AGM from across the country. A fuller explanation of the project is to be found elsewhere in this edition.

All those registering for the AGM will be issued an invitation to participate. You are encouraged to respond favourably. This will be the first occasion on which this particular research model has been applied to former parliamentarians.

Teaching about Parliament

Our schools program, under the leadership of the **Honourable Pauline Browes**, is beginning to hit its stride. The pamphlet on the program, mailed in co-operation with the Forum for Young Canadians, resulted in a substantial number of applications for our members to appear. The names of members who have visited schools since September are to be found in a sidebar, as are the names of those who made presentations at the Canada School of Public Service.

Representation

In October, I represented the Association at a public discussion on Religion and Human Rights sponsored by Rights and Democracy while **Bill Tupper**, on our behalf, attended the opening of "In Your Face: The Peoples Portrait Project" – an exhibition of thousands of publicly submitted portraits from across the world.

In November, we received an invitation to attend the 10th Annual Ceremony of Remembrance in the Senate Chamber. On November 11, I had the honour of being accompanied by the **Honourable Joan Neiman**, one of our few remaining Second World War veterans, when placing the Association's wreath at the National War Memorial. An article on former Senator Neiman and the event can be found elsewhere in this edition.

In the same month, I also had the honour of representing you at the World University Service of Canada's 61st Annual Assembly; a *vin d'honneur* and luncheon in honour of the 2007-08 Parliamentary Interns hosted by the **Honourable Peter Milliken**; and, the second annual *Maclean's* Parliamentary of the Year Awards.

Léo Duguay represented the Association at a Conference on "Effective Party Assistance: Stronger Parties for Better Democracy" held by the Democracy Council in co-operation with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

In December, the **Honourable Jack Murta** represented us at the Canadian Study of Parliament Group's 2007

Winter Conference, while I represented the Association at the Rights and Democracy's 2007 John Humphrey Freedom Award ceremony in honour of **Mr. Akbar Ganji** of Iran.

January saw the **Honourable Peter Adams** participate in a panel discussion on "Private Members' Business and Initiatives" sponsored by the Canadian Study of Parliament Group.

The AGM and Other Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars! The AGM will be held in Ottawa, May 11 to 13. Watch your mail for details. Nominating forms for the Board of Directors and Distinguished Service Award have been sent to paid-up members. Planning is also underway for a summer Alberta regional meeting in Edmonton and an autumn Québec regional meeting in Québec City during that city's 400th anniversary celebrations.

Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew your membership if you are already a member in good standing and to take out a membership if you have not already done so. Your dues support the diverse programs of the Association and underwrite the production of this magazine, our AGM, regional meetings, the Memorial Service and the Distinguished Service Award. Your financial support is key to our continued improvement. Don't forget that this is also a good time to make a contribution to our Educational Foundation. Such contributions are charitable donations and as such beneficially affect your income tax.

À bientôt!

Canada School of Public Service Honour Roll

October:

The Hon. Peter Adams
The Hon. Elinor Caplan
Vincent Della Noce
Dorothy Dobbie
Simma Holt
Rev. Laverne Lewycky
The Hon. Lorne Nystrom
Henri Tousignant

November:

The Hon. Elinor Caplan
Dr. Jeannot Castonguay
Dorothy Dobbie
Val Meredith
The Hon. Lorne Nystrom

December:

The Hon. Herb Breau
The Hon. Pierre Cadieux
Simma Holt
Ian McClelland
The Hon. Jack Murta
Henri Tousignant

January:

Françoise Boivin
The Hon. Pauline Browes
The Hon. Pierre Cadieux
The Hon. Paul DeVillers
Dr. Stan Dromisky
Gordon Earle
Simma Holt
Francis LeBlanc
The Hon. Audrey McLaughlin
The Hon. Lorne Nystrom
George Proud
The Right Hon. Ed Schreyer
Henri Tousignant

Schools - September to January:

Alberta Schools:

Dale Johnston in Lacombe, AB
The Hon. Nick Taylor in Banff, AB
Jim Hawkes in Calgary, AB

Manitoba:

Glen McKinnon in Russell, MB
The Right Hon. Ed Schreyer in Selkirk, MB
Dorothy Dobbie in Whitemouth, MB
Sig Enns in Winnipeg, MB

New Brunswick:

Maurice Harquail in Fredericton, NB
Rev. Laverne Lewycky in Riverview, NB

Ontario:

The Hon. Pauline Browes in Toronto, ON
and a teachers' conference in Markham, ON
The Hon. Don Boudria in Russell, ON

Saskatchewan:

John Burton in Lipton, SK
Don Ravis in Landis, SK and in Macklin, SK

Letters to the Editor

Condolences

I received a sympathy card a few months ago in honour of my late husband and would like to thank Doug Rowland and the CAFP for your thoughts. Over the years, Scott and I attended a few former parliamentary meetings and have enjoyed them.

Thank you,

Allison Boychuk

Wife of the late Scott Thorkelson

Our apologies

In the obituaries in the second quarter edition of Beyond the Hill, Mrs.

Thorkelson was misidentified as Ruth. The late Parliamentarian's wife is actually Allison Boychuk.

We regret the error.

Thanks from the Teachers

Thank you for recently participating in the 2007 Resources Fair of the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy. There were over 50 organizations represented at the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa on Tuesday Oct. 30, 2007.

Your involvement this year helped us supply 85 of Canada's finest educators with a wealth of educational resources and information on parliamentary democracy and citizenship education.

Teachers were impressed by and very appreciative of the variety of materials made available to them. They left the Resource Fair with a box full of valuable resources and ideas to use in their classrooms and to share among colleagues.

Inspired by what they collected, teachers returned home with an excitement to try new products and programs and to instil greater political and citizenship awareness in their students.

Thank you for your continued support and contribution to our program. It is our hope that your organization will participate again next year.

Debbie Jiang

**Resource Fair Co-ordinator
Teachers Institute on Canadian
Parliamentary Democracy**

Parliamentary Interns

On behalf of the 2007-08 parliamentary interns, I would like to thank you for the wonderful luncheon and fascinating discussion we had recently. It was one of our most lively and interesting events of the orientation period.

We began our placements last week and we will keep in mind your anecdotes and advice. We look forward to seeing you on and around the Hill over the next year!

**Christina Lazarova, Member,
Parliamentary Internship Program**

Remembrance Day

One more note to thank you again for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa this year. It was a memorable day for me and you (Doug Rowland) were a masterful and kindly guide.

I really enjoyed visiting the Officers' Mess again after almost 60 years but still can't get over noticing all those three and four stripe youngsters – with children!

It made me realize again how fortunate Clem and I are to be able still to enjoy our children and grandchildren and so we are having them all here for Christmas – 13 of them (plus one large Bouvier) from Ottawa, Vancouver and Duluth. A good neighbour is lending a couple of sleeping bags. It should be fun, I keep telling myself.

Joan Neiman

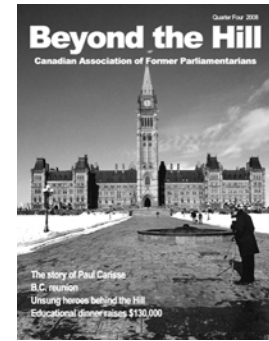
Observer accolades

On behalf of the National Democratic Institute I would like to thank you for your participation in the Institute's international observer delegation to Ukraine's September 2007 pre-term parliamentary elections.

The knowledge and expertise you brought to the mission contributed measurably to its success.

We appreciate your continuing interest and support, and look forward to your involvement in future NDI activities.

**Kenneth Wollack, President,
National Democratic Institute**



Managing Editor
Keith Penner

Associate Editor
Dorothy Dobbie

Editorial Interns
Katie DeRosa
Francine Garneau
Mark Masters
Nicolas Tremblay

Ex-officio/Publisher
Doug Rowland

Production Assistants
Céline Brazeau-Fraser
Julie Mertens
Susan Simms

Editorial Board
Jim Fleming
Simma Holt
Betty Kennedy
Laurier LaPierre
Claudy Lynch
Geoff Scott

Contributors
Auguste Choquette
Dorothy Dobbie
Terry Grier
Joe Jordan
Robert Miller
Lyn Murta
Bob Ringma

Cover Photo

Bernard Thibodeau, Assistant Photographer on the Hill. The photographer who appears in the cover shot is Chris Diotte.

Beyond the Hill welcomes letters to the editor, submissions and suggestions. P.O. Box 1, 131 Queen St., House of Commons Ottawa, ON Canada K1A 0A6. Telephone 1-888-567-4764, Fax: 613-947-1764 E-mail: exparl@parl.gc.ca. Website: www.exparl.ca. Published four times a year.

CAFP asked to participate in Queen's Study



The findings of the study will be published in a research article prepared in collaboration with Ohio State University and the Center for Experimental and Social Science at New York University.

by Francine Garneau

The School of Policy Studies at Queen's University is inviting former parliamentarians to take part in a study designed to model the legislative bargaining process. The research sessions will coincide with the CAFP 2008 Annual General Meeting this May. Members registering for the AGM will receive an invitation to participate in the project.

It is the first time in history that this type of study has been conducted with actual legislators.

"It is a much more direct test than those performed with undergrad students," said School of Policy Studies assistant professor and researcher Steven Lehrer. "[Former parliamentarians] have experience and they know the feel of the environment in which the debates take place."

This will be the second time a university has employed the skills, knowledge and experience of CAFP members in an academic study. Members also participated in a study of proportional representation conducted by the Law Reform Commission.

The findings of the study will be published in a research article prepared in collaboration with Ohio State University and the Center for Experimental and Social Science at New York University.

Testing sessions have already taken place with American legislators in Pennsylvania. The researchers are aiming for a sample of 120 participants from both sides of the border.

The results from this study will test the academic world's current ideas of what are the key issues in legislative bargaining. These results will prove invaluable for the next generation of scholars.

"From an academic's standpoint, the results from the questionnaire will provide many benefits for future research. This will be hot for graduate students in political science studies," said Lehrer.

The conclusions of the study will also benefit present and future parliamentarians.

"It will allow them to understand which factors drive the system and help clarify their thought process," Lehrer added.

Participating former parliamentarians together will have a contribution of approximately \$2,000 made to the charity

of their choice in exchange for their collaboration.

The publication of results will exclude the mention of any participant's name or riding.

"It is completely risk free," said Lehrer. "Both your actions and any comments you make during the roundtable discussions will be not be linked to you or to your constituency."

The sessions organized in the US have been very successful.

"Everyone involved has had a lot of fun," said Lehrer. "The participants have really enjoyed themselves and a lot of money has been raised for charity."

Association launches new website

by Mark Masters

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians is growing both on the ground and in cyberspace. The group launched a new website on Dec. 21.

"It brings our whole operation into the 21st century," said executive director Jack Murta, who oversaw the initiative. "We are very excited about the new opportunities the new website will offer our members."

The website, available at www.exparl.ca, includes a new members-only section, which will offer former parliamentarians the chance to pay their membership dues online as well as register for regional and annual meetings through the Internet.

Among the new features of the website is included a link to job postings within the association along with a list of members and their contact information. Members will also be able to personally update their contact information via the website.

"This was long overdue," said Murta. "It will allow members and the public at large to see us in a whole new light."

The website, designed through consultant Ken MacKinnon, is easier to navigate and provides a more user-friendly feel for visitors.

The website also includes information on many of the association's programs and archived copies of the *Beyond the Hill* magazine.

Seeing Canadian politics through the lens of Jean-Marc Carisse

by Francine Garneau



A poignant moment captured at the funeral of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

The most important historic events risk sinking into the collective forgetfulness, unless there are visual reminders to instil them into the Canadian memory.

For more than 25 years, Jean-Marc Carisse has immortalized memorable national political moments through his camera lens and, with the help of his wide-ranging portfolio, has provided Canadians with an insider's view of the events behind closed doors on Parliament Hill.

Humble beginnings

In the early 1970s, armed with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Ottawa, Carisse applied for a researcher job with the National Liberal Caucus. A significant item in his CV would seal his fate: he had emphasized his interest in photography.

Carisse says he had taken a lot of pictures on campus, including theatre acts, dance troupes, and the occasional professor. He did not have an extraordinary portfolio, and all the pictures were black and white.

But chance smiled upon him. The caucus leader was looking for an “unofficial” photographer (since the position did not yet exist), and he noticed that Carisse was particularly

interested in photography. He was hired.

His tasks included taking portraits of the members and ministers as requested. And from time to time he was asked to take portraits of the Prime Minister. He also took routine photos, for instance when the members invited people to meet with Mr. Trudeau. There were also official visits by dignitaries.

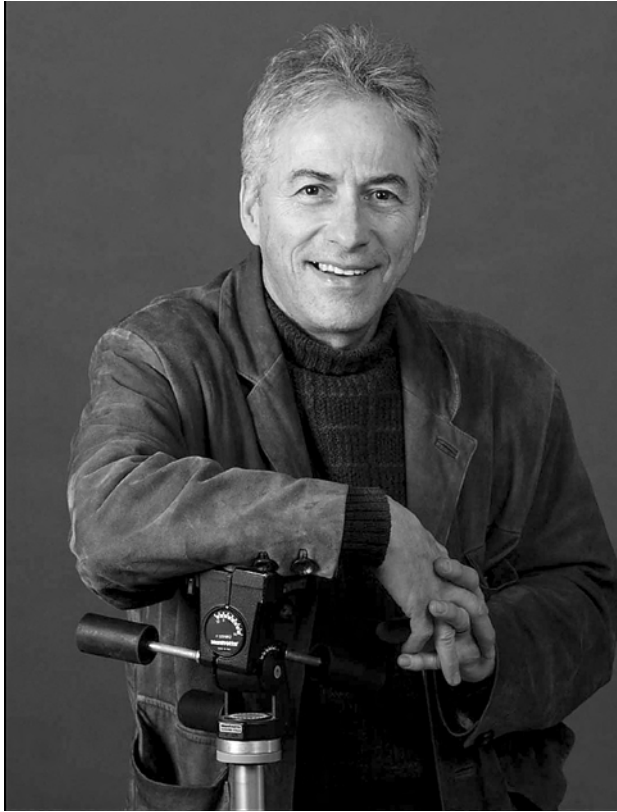
When Prime Minister Trudeau left office, Jean-Marc Carisse continued working as a freelance photographer.

When he started working on the Hill, Carisse met a minister called Jean Chrétien. He rubbed shoulders with Mr. Chrétien when he became the leader of the Liberals. He took plenty of pictures “on the fly,” accompanying him throughout his election campaign. When Mr. Chrétien became Prime Minister, Carisse became his official photographer. He held this position throughout two full terms in office.

Famous subjects

In his extensive career, Jean-Marc Carisse had many opportunities to capture historic moments: countless summits, official visits, treaties and meetings. He also took pictures of the most celebrated personages from every field.

Jean-Marc Carisse has had many opportunities to capture historic moments: countless summits, official visits, treaties and meetings.



Jean-Marc Carisse

He met the most prominent personalities over the years: the Dalai Lama, Pope Jean Paul II, President Mandela, Bill Clinton, Mother Teresa, many musicians, dancer Rudolf Nureyev and Leonard Cohen, as well as prime ministers Chrétien, Turner and Trudeau.

On the important role of photography in politics

According to Carisse, an official photographer with access to closed meetings and places is very important, whether photos are taken in the Cabinet or to immortalize meetings and visits in the Prime Minister's study. The visual dimension is critical, and someone has to be there to capture these moments.

The crowning of a career

Carisse's photos have been shown in many exhibits, in Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg and even Havana, Cuba. His exhibit *My Trudeau Years* was featured at the National Archives for six months.

He has also published a retrospective covering a quarter-century, titled *Privileged Access with Trudeau, Turner and Chrétien*. His exhibit *On the World Stage* is currently on view at the Carisse Studio-Café galleria in downtown Ottawa.

Lyn Murta's Drumstick Dessert

Lyn and Jack Murta offer a delicious real "weight watchers" dessert.

1 1/2 C vanilla wafer crumbs
1/2 C chopped nuts - peanuts or pecans
1/4 C melted butter

Mix together and press into a round spring pan (save some crumbs for use later on top of dessert)

1 tsp vanilla
250 ml (8oz) cream cheese
1/2 C icing sugar
1/2C Peanut butter
Large container of Cool Whip
2 eggs

Cream cheese and add sugar, peanut butter and vanilla. Add eggs and cream well. Fold in Cool Whip.

Place half of this mixture over your prepared crumbs. Drizzle some Hershey chocolate sauce and then place the rest of the mixture on top.

Then drizzle more chocolate sauce over the top, and sprinkle on the remaining crumbs. Freeze.

You may leave this in your freezer and just bring out about half an hour before serving, so that it is easy to cut in pie shapes.

Enjoy!

Lyn is married to CAF's Executive Director, Jack Murta. Jack Murta was a Progressive Conservative MP for Lisgar, Manitoba from 1970 to 1984.

We'd love to hear from you!

Life takes funny turns when you leave the Hill. Some of our members stay connected to governance issues (see the story about John Bosley on page 11). Others turn to business (see page 10 on Hugh Faulkner). Still others just retire but stay active supporting the issues that they were passionate about in Parliament.

So what about you?

We'd love to hear.

Send your submissions to *Beyond the Hill*, P.O. Box 1, 131 Queen Street, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6 or call us at 1-888-567-4764. E-mail at exparl@parl.gc.ca

No passion for wine, but a passion for life

by Nicolas Tremblay

Former minister has found a new love



Le Domaine du Grand Cros.



Hugh, Julian and Jane Faulkner.



Left to right: Julian Faulkner, Jane Faulkner, Irène Fumanal, Hugh Faulkner, Stéphane Sanchez, Mariline Garcia, Saïd Guérouat.



“I don’t have a passion for wine.” This statement may seem somewhat banal; but coming from a winegrower, it piques one’s interest. The Honourable James Hugh Faulkner, operates the Le Domaine du Grand Cros estate, a vineyard located in Provence, France. In his opinion, the term “passion” is overused in the wine industry. However, this does not change the fact that he derives immense satisfaction from inviting visitors to sample the offerings of the family’s vineyard.

Le Domaine du Grand Cros is, above all, a story about a family. Hugh Faulkner, a former Liberal MP who represented Peterborough from 1965 to 1979, and his wife Jane fell in love with the location. The couple purchased and began operating the vineyard in 1989. The Faulkner’s eldest son, who has a master’s degree in vineyard management, took over the running of the estate at the turn of the century, but Hugh and Jane are still involved.

The Faulkner’s estate produces approximately 100,000 bottles of red, white and rosé wines. Le Domaine du Grand Cros is considered to be a small producer by French standards, the world’s leading country in the industry.

Le Grand Cros Nectar Rouge 2003 is currently available in a few stores in Quebec and Ontario, but in very limited quantities. “It is very difficult for a minor player to garner the attention of the large corporations that oversee the sale of alcohol. The large producers get most of the attention and we get the crumbs,” says the native of Montreal.

The one-time minister of Indian Affairs and of Science and Technology under the Trudeau government is also disappointed that the sommeliers at the Parliamentary Restaurant are not serving his *Nectar Rouge 2001*, which was awarded five stars in the British wine magazine *Decanter*. “I thought that the fact that I am recognized as a producer of award-winning French wines

and once served fourteen years as a federal Member of Parliament might carry some weight. Clearly, that is not yet the case.”

Politics 101

In between his years in the House of Commons and purchasing the estate, this Canadian, who now calls France his home, occupied various senior-management positions at Alcan. His political experience continues to be useful today in the world of viticulture.

“My political experience has helped me in the business world; it taught me to respect people,” says Mr. Faulkner. “When you are in business, these people are your clients; but the same principles apply.” The winemaker added that it is important to keep abreast of what is happening in politics. “Many people in the viticulture industry in France don’t take their mayors and municipal administrations seriously. They often come up against unpleasant surprises that could easily have been avoided.”

Taking lessons from Canada's Parliamentary system abroad

by Nicolas Tremblay

"... the parliament was dominated by the party in power and was developing in a culture where respect for authority is paramount."



High Commissioner John Dalzell and Hon. John Bosley in Zambia last year.



John Bosley says there is definitely life after politics, especially when that means you can still work with parliaments.

In 1994, the Honourable John William Bosley had a decision to make. Even after serving more than 14 years on Parliament Hill as the Conservative MP for Don Valley West, he did not escape his party's overwhelming defeat in the 1993 election. He had to find a new career path.

A return to the world of business, where he had worked before moving into active politics, would have been a logical choice. But a call from Robert Miller, President of the Parliamentary Centre, changed his life.

"He asked me if I was interested in participating in a workshop for Cambodian parliamentarians. I went, and I really loved the interaction. Little by little I became a full-time consultant with the Centre."

The mission of the Centre, which this year is celebrating its 40th anniversary,

is to improve the effectiveness of representative assemblies all over the world.

The former Speaker of the House of Commons has by now shared his expertise with many parliaments in the developing world. After Asia and Africa, Bosley has been working in Central America, and more specifically in Haiti, since last June.

His main challenge in Haiti? To dust off his French after having lived and worked almost exclusively in English since leaving Ottawa.

Parliamentary realities have differed widely among the countries that have welcomed Bosley. In Ethiopia, where he worked between 1999 and 2004, the parliament was dominated by the party in power and was developing in a culture where respect for authority is para-

mount. "I had to teach them to say 'No' from time to time," he explains.

The situation in Haiti is at the other end of the spectrum. There, politicians are more interested in personal advantage than in their party's interests, and government proposals are invariably rejected right off the bat. Parliament must learn to work with the executive power. This is one of the main objectives of the Canada-Haiti project.

The ultimate goal of any mission abroad is to help a country to not need help. Bosley admits this goal is not often achieved.

Before he went to Haiti, however, the former Conservative MP spent several years in Zambia, in southern Africa, where the National Assembly was eager to reform its procedures.

Bosley advised first on the structure of the reforms and then on their implementation.

After that, the Zambian leadership decided they no longer needed international help.

"I was sad to leave, but proud that the process had worked so well," says this Toronto native.

"Yes, there is life after politics," he concludes. "I've been lucky to find a vocation that places me outside politics but much of the time inside Parliament."

New Chief Electoral Officer vows to increase voter turnout

Marc Mayrand says he will focus on making sure people feel confident in the integrity of the political and electoral system by creating a more accessible system.

by Katie DeRosa



Marc Mayrand.

Marc Mayrand took on the post of Canada's chief electoral officer on February 21, 2007 and one year later, he still can't believe the challenges that have come his way.

He had no idea the Privy Council Office was considering him as a candidate for the nation's top electoral official until he was interviewed.

Mayrand, a 54-year-old from Trois-Rivières, Quebec, said making the transition from Superintendent of Bankruptcy, a position he has held since 1997, after a long career with the department, to chief electoral officer was tough.

"It was a big shift. There are similarities, I must say, but there are also very significant differences."

He said the position is much more in the public eye, which means there must be a high level of transparency.

"It's very transparent and receives a lot of media attention, which was a little bit new to me. The other thing has been the relationship with parliamentarians on parliamentary committees, which I had to learn quickly."

In September, Mayrand announced women who wore a burka would not have to lift their veils at the voting station as long as they have someone to vouch for their identity.

Many Canadians, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, publicly opposed this decision, but Mayrand said if Parliament disagreed they should change the law, which they did soon after.

Mayrand said he took an unwavering stand on the issue because it is a matter of allowing unrestricted access to voters.

"The role of an electoral body is to

ensure that voters can cast their vote. And the whole Electoral Act is about ensuring that steps are being made to ease the voting process not to restrict it. And what I was being asked here was to restrict the act of certain electors without specific prescription from the legislation."

Mayrand is slated to serve in his new role until he turns 65 and he says he has a plan in place to help him achieve his goals.

The plan includes three major themes, specifically, trust, accessibility and engagement.

He said he will focus on making sure people feel confident in the integrity of the political and electoral system by creating a more accessible system.

"It has an impact with an increasingly diverse population, a population that is ever more mobile than it used to be and one that is also aging. We need to make sure that the electoral process can reach those electors and allow them to conveniently cast their vote if an election is called."

On the engagement front Mayrand will focus on increasing voter turnout.

"When we survey electors, one of the main factors they say as to why they didn't vote, not the only one but an important factor, is the lack of convenience."

Mayrand said he also wants to reach out to youth, the demographic with the most disappointing voter turnout, at just 38 per cent in the 2004 election and 25 per cent in 2000.

"We need to engage youth in democratic life. While we have a role, we can-

not be alone. I think political parties, parliamentarians, former parliamentarians can bring youth in," he said. "I think we need to adjust the address to youth to speak to what is of interest to them. And also stress to them the importance of why their vote makes a difference."

Mayrand also talked about more ambitious plans for electoral reform such as changing the way Canadians cast their ballots. He said e-voting is a growing technological advancement that could make voting easier and more accessible for many.

Mayrand said there are already some municipalities using electronic voting and Australia recently launched a pilot project to allow members of the military to vote electronically.

"The question is how can we rely on that technology, so we need to look at what are the parameters that will guarantee that continued confidence in that process if we are to move to electronic voting."

He has set a more attainable goal in developing an automated system of registered voters or allowing voters to register or update their information online and also providing more information about where and when they can cast their vote.

But with all the challenges that come with the job, Mayrand says his most difficult task is making sure Elections Canada is ready for an election at any time.

"In the current environment of a minority government, with all the noises that occur on the Hill and in the media, you really need to make sure that you're ready."

Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments

“The Administration must work to enhance the public’s understanding of our institutions and the work of parliamentarians.”

by Nicolas Tremblay



Paul Bélisle, Clerk.

“There is no formal process for becoming Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments,” says Paul C. Bélisle, who has held the position for the past fourteen years. “As I see it, experience in administration and parliamentary procedure, a certain personality type and a passion for Parliament are the prerequisites for this position.”

In early 1994, the position of Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments was vacant. Senators from both sides of the Senate were impressed with Mr. Bélisle’s abilities and put his name forward to the Privy Council Office. His impressive qualifications did not escape the Deputy Minister. He was appointed chief officer of the Upper Chamber on March 14, 1994, at the young age of 43.

From St. Joachim to Ottawa

Born in 1950, this Franco-Ontarian native of St. Joachim, a small village in southwestern Ontario, left home to study at the University of Ottawa. Over a period of ten years, he earned successive degrees in social sciences, public administration and law. He was called to the Quebec Bar in 1988.

Mr. Bélisle has embraced parliamentary life from the moment he arrived in Ottawa. At 20, he became the first university student to work as a page and has been a fixture on the Hill ever since. In 2008, he began his 38th year of service to the people of Canada.

The life of a clerk

“No one dreams of being a clerk,” admits Mr. Bélisle. “Nonetheless, after

fourteen years in this position, I am still excited by the many challenges that arise on a daily basis. As Clerk of the Parliaments, the Clerk is custodian of all original Acts and is responsible for certifying three copies of these Acts.

The Clerk, whose primary responsibility is to address senator’s needs as regards the legislative process, also plays a role in shaping Canadian democracy. Accountability, transparency, impartiality, the hiring of human resources that are representative of Canada’s diversity, and the sound management of government funds are among the basic principles on which the executive and legislative branches must agree for the good of all Canadians.

These responsibilities, coupled with managing the 450 employees of the Senate Administration and those of the senators’ offices, mean that the Clerk’s daily agenda is hectic if nothing else.

Honours

Mr. Bélisle has received numerous awards and honours during his brilliant career, including the *Association des parlementaires de la Francophonie’s Ordre de la Pléiade*. Yet, the Senate’s chief officer, who has helped make the Parliament of Canada an internationally recognized model of democracy, is especially moved by the recognition he has received from those he works with on a day-to-day basis.

“To mark my 30 years of service on the Hill, the employees and senators compiled three volumes of very touching acknowledgments and comments.”

Work-family balance

It is because of his ability to balance the gruelling demands of his position with his family life that Mr. Bélisle continues to hold his position after fourteen years of loyal service.

“I am very lucky to have a wife who works at the House of Commons and understands the demands of Parliament.”

He is also the proud father of two young women. His eldest daughter is studying communications and history at a university in England while the youngest is pursuing her secondary studies at the Lycée Claudel in the National Capital Region.

A wish

“The hard work and dedication of politicians are not always given the recognition they deserve. The Administration must work to enhance the public’s understanding of our institutions and the work of parliamentarians.”

Paul C. Bélisle has never been interested in active politics. In fact, were he not completely non-partisan, he would not be able to fulfil his current role.

Mr. Bélisle encourages Canadians to visit Parliament, watch the CPAC channel and read the reports of the Senate and House of Commons so that they can gain a better understanding and appreciation of the work of parliamentarians. He also encourages young people to follow in his footsteps and work on Parliament Hill as pages or guides or in a senator’s office.

Educational Foundation dinner raises \$130,000

More than 30 major Canadian businesses attended the event, helping young Canadians learn to become powerful citizens.

by Francine Garneau



David Phillips and Hugh Scott from Credit Union Central of Canada.



Marianne Goodwin, the Hon. David Price and Chantale Courchesne, RX&D Table.



Wayne Cheeseman, Jeremy Cotton and Tom Froggatt, Canada Post Table.

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians' Educational Foundation held its fundraising dinner among the vehicles and artillery that have marked Canada's military history.

Everyone was in high spirits at the third annual dinner, held in the LeBreton Gallery of the Canadian War Museum on November 14.

The Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Peter Milliken, once again acted as master of ceremonies.

This year, the guest of honour and keynote speaker was Derek Burney. The former Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Chief of Staff to former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and CEO of Bell Canada International gave both an inspired and inspiring speech (see text by Francine Garneau on following page) to some 250 guests.

Mr. Burney and his wife Joan were in good company at the table of honour, which was made up of such distin-

guished guests as, besides the master of ceremonies, Mr. Doug Frith, President of the Educational Foundation, the Honourable Allan Lutfy, Chief Justice of the Federal Court; Ms. Valorie Day, President of the Parliamentarian Spouses Association; Mr. Marc Mayrand, the new Chief Electoral Officer; Mr. Don Newman, CBC anchor; and Mr. Doug Rowland, Chair of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians (CAFP).

More than 30 major Canadian businesses attended the event, helping young Canadians learn to become powerful citizens. Many guests who rose through politics sat with company representatives.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner with top-notch Ontario wines from Inniskillin. The Canadian War Museum staff provided excellent service.

As this very successful evening drew to a close, the atmosphere was relaxed

— even a few ties had been loosened.

While the final number isn't yet in, the CAFP estimates that this elegant evening raised over \$130,000. These funds will enable the Educational Foundation to carry out its mission to provide expertise and speakers, and to generally support the strengthening of democracy and the good governance of public affairs in Canada and abroad.

Many activities are made possible thanks to the generosity of the event's participants. These include a national undergraduate essay competition, a variety of parliamentary internships in writing and research at the Library of Parliament, and study tours of the British Parliament.

It is important to point out that this successful evening would not have been possible without the support of CAFP staff, Céline Brazeau-Fraser, Julie Mertens and Susan Simms, who all deserve a round of applause.

Derek Burney tells it like it is

by Francine Garneau

“There remains stubborn resistance to globalisation in Canada: pulp fiction masquerading as analysis offers conspiracy theories about secret cabals plotting to rob us of our sovereignty and identity, hoodwinking politicians and supporters, handing over our birthright to faceless forces that mean us harm. In a word, this is ‘globaloney’.”



Derek Burney, a former chief of staff to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, mesmerized the sold-out crowd at the Educational Foundation Dinner with a lively analysis of Canada’s integration to global markets.

The man who led Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s transition team patted Canada on the back when needed while highlighting areas to improve on and offering insight and solutions to existing problems.

Burney’s short-and-sweet, straight-to-the-point delivery effectively captured the importance of adapting to an inevitable globalisation rather than to being engulfed by it.

“I know that globalisation arouses a debate. It’s not a theory to support or condemn. It’s a reality: you either turn it to your advantage or you get run over.”

The keynote speaker applauded Canada’s signing on to NAFTA and the adoption of the *Investment Canada Act*.

“We announced to the world that Canada was open for business.”

Although Burney recognized Canada’s efforts to become more appealing to global markets he did not shy away from explaining why he feels we’re still lagging behind other countries.

“There remains stubborn resistance to globalisation in Canada: pulp fiction masquerading as analysis offers conspiracy theories about secret cabals plotting to rob us of our sovereignty and identity, hoodwinking politicians and supporters, handing over our birthright to faceless forces that mean us harm. In a word, this is ‘globaloney’.”

The area in need of most improvement to bring our global economy up to par with that of other countries is internal free-trade, Burney said.

“We talk endlessly about the need for internal free trade but very little happens. You know, when I’m asked whether a customs union with the US should be part of our future, my answer is: let’s first complete the customs union here at home.”

Burney attacked Canada’s low productivity when compared to other industri-

alized countries.

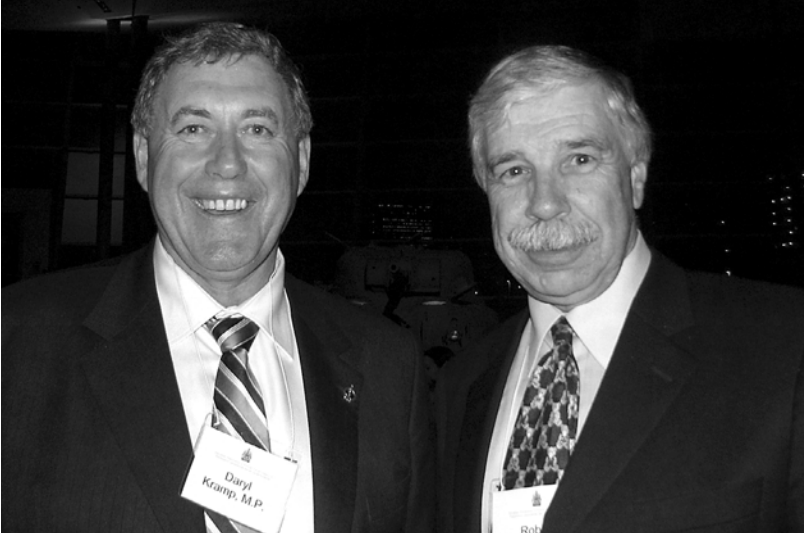
“You know we’ve coasted for years with a relatively weak Canadian dollar, a crutch of convenience that shielded us from the investments and the innovation needed to keep pace. That crutch is gone, and dramatically so; our manufacturing sector is beset now by twin pressures: the huge increase in the value of our dollar and diminishing demand for some of our traditional products.”

The guest of honour concluded with four major recommendations: concentrate public and private efforts to improve all facets of our economy, lower taxes to “make Canada a better destination for domestic and foreign investments,” update the *Canada Investment Act* and, most importantly, “invest and innovate in education”.

As Burney concluded, all the guests rose in a standing ovation, regardless of political affiliation or ideology.

Association Chair Doug Rowland thanked Burney for his address saying, “I can only say: You did us proud.”

We were there at the Educational dinner



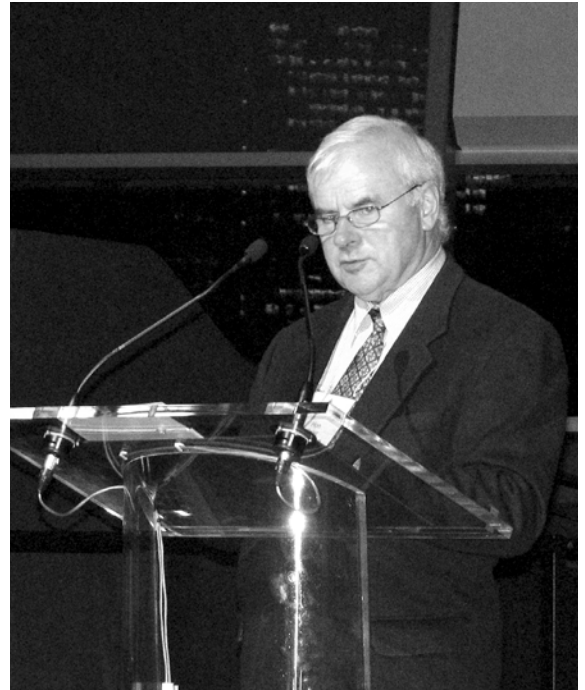
Daryl Kramp, MP, and Robert Keyes.



Senator Oliver and Former Senator Landon Pearson.



Hon. Sheila Finestone and the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray.



The Hon. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House.



Jim Murta, the Hon. Jack Murta and former MP Geoff Wilson.



The Hon. Ed Lumley and Senator Francis Fox.



The RCMP's Strolling Dixieland Band.



Bob Mills (centre) with two guests at the CIBC table.



Hon. Doug Frith, Chair of the CAFP Educational Foundation.

A little business, a little fun West Coast style

by Auguste Choquette



Jim and Joanne Hawkes and Stan and Eileen Graham at the Chair's reception.



Andrew Chatwood, Doug Rowland and Auguste Choquette.

The regional meeting of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, held in Victoria from October 28 to 30, 2007, was extremely successful.

Against the fascinating backdrop that British Columbia's capital provides, everyone had high expectations for the meeting, which was attended by some 60 people, including the spouses of former members of the Senate and the House of Commons.

It all began in the historic and majestic Empress Hotel, which the group left in the late afternoon of Sunday, October 28 for a drive to the upper-crust neighbourhood of Oak Bay. There we attended a most enjoyable reception hosted by Mr. and Mrs. J. Judd Buchanan in their magnificent home with its panoramic view of the ocean.

The next day, we met at 9:30 a. m. in a room at the provincial legislature. After some extremely interesting discussions, we had the pleasure of hearing a well-structured presentation by Jack Murta and our Chair, Doug Rowland.

The core topic was the International Election Monitors Institute, a project

dear to our Chair's heart and that will require the co-operation of American and European former parliamentarians.

During the meeting, which lasted more than two hours, the Speaker of the province's Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Bill Barisoff, dropped in to make a few remarks.

Then came a guided tour of the legislative precinct. The architecture is ornate and splendid, and when the outside is illuminated after dark, it is dazzling.

At lunch we heard from Ian Waddell, an impressively articulate man with a lively wit.

We sat in the gallery for Question Period, where the noise levels evoked the tumult in the House of Commons. Unlike the House of Commons, the Speaker recalls the MLAs to order by saying "Members" rather than "Order."

A delightful reception was held at Government House, the luxurious official residence of the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Steven Point. His Honour is an imposing man, with the tanned face and penetrating gaze of the outdoorsman. He held us riveted by the

eloquence, not untouched with mysticism, with which he discussed his Aboriginal roots.

The evening concluded with a dinner at the Empress Hotel during which one former parliamentarian after another told anecdotes of their public life.

On October 30, we had a memorable tour of HMCS Regina, a patrol frigate whose sophisticated equipment was like something out of science fiction. The vessel was built in the Lauzon shipyards in Quebec around 1990, and was later stationed in Halifax.

The closing luncheon was held in a cafeteria of the famous Hatley Castle, which we had a chance to explore. Distinguished academic Gordon Smith addressed us on international relations in the war in Afghanistan.

The regional meeting was meticulously organized under the chairmanship of Doug Rowland, whose contributions were as usual concise and to the point.

Auguste Choquette was a Liberal MP for Lotbinière, Québec from 1963 to 1968.

Speech from new B.C. Lieutenant Governor gets warm reception

by Katie DeRosa



Lieutenant Governor Steven Point speaks to the members.

“We can’t allow people to simply sit back and not participate . . .”



(Left to right): Patrick Crofton, Lieutenant Governor Steven Point, Doug Rowland and Roger Simmons.

Newly appointed B. C. Lieutenant Governor, Steven Point, took the CAFP members into his home on the first day of the B.C. regional conference with a reception at Government House on October 29, 2007.

The members were greeted at the front steps with a row of pumpkins – freshly carved earlier that day in time for Halloween – and a beaming Steven Point who welcomed each guest with a friendly handshake and a heartfelt speech.

“I must say, looking at all of you, I am encouraged to see that there is life after politics,” said Point to a chorus of laughs. “And a good one,” one of the members responded.

Steven Point was named the 28th Lieutenant Governor on October 1, 2007, the first Aboriginal to hold the position.

He served as Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission after serving for the elected Chief of the Skowkale First Nation for 15 years. He was also the tribal chair of the Stó:lo Nation Government and was appointed Grand Chief by the Stó:lo Tribal Council. Point has also worked as a provincial court judge.

In his speech, Point talked about how rewarding a life of politics can be, espe-

cially as he reflected on the lessons he has learned from his own community members.

“It’s the kind of service that you bring to the community from yourself and I found, I often learned, I took away more than I gave. And I’m sure that’s the same with you,” he said.

Point said his goal for the next few years of his term is to gain a better understanding of the value of democracy and to encourage the community to participate in that democracy.

“We can’t allow people to simply sit back and not participate; we have to help them in some way to understand their responsibility, to help them understand the positive and important contribution that our politicians have made in the past and can make of course in the future.”

Point said he wants to find ways to encourage young people to engage in the political arena, something as simple as knowing the history of Canada, which he called one of the strongest democracies in the world.

“I know that many of you have contributed tremendously to the growth and development of this country,” he said, adding that he may tap into that

resource soon.

“It’s an honour to know that your association has continued to give to our country both in the area of education and in the area of monitoring elections in other countries.”

After the speech, many of the members whose sons or daughters had worked with Point during his career were eager to snap a picture to send home. Point took time to chat for several minutes with almost all his guests.

Association chair Doug Rowland followed the address with a brief one of his own, despite his comment that it was no easy feat to follow such a great speaker.

“In joining the association, the members rededicate themselves to the strengthening of democracy in Canada by working with Canadian youth and their teachers and to the building of democracy and good governance abroad by providing expert knowledge and experience,” said Rowland.

“By choosing to acknowledge their service past and present of the men and women of the association through receiving us, you have touched the hearts of each of us, those of us here today and those who cannot attend.”

Staying in Touch – Victoria edition

By Katie DeRosa

Ian Waddell

Ian Waddell shifted gears to provincial politics in British Columbia after 14 years in the House of Commons, but he has continued to champion the environment and Aboriginal affairs.



He represented the NDP in Vancouver-Kingsway from 1979 to 1988, and then Port Moody-Coquitlam until 1993. In the mid 1990s, he served provincially as Minister of Small Business, Minister of Tourism and Minister of the Environment.

Waddell says that despite some drastic differences between the two political forums many of the issues are the same. He says that some changes, like environmental sustainability, need to start with the provinces.

You have been in both provincial and federal politics. What's the difference?

When I was in provincial politics I was Minister of Tourism and Culture and Environment. It was very different, a much smaller arena, but we also dealt with some interesting stuff. The provinces have quite a bit of power. I got to deal with the Olympics bid.

Federally, we do much more thorough consideration of legislation. We do it much too fast in provincial government. They do it sort of as a committee as a whole.

What political issue were you most interested in?

I was very interested in Aboriginal matters because I had worked as a young lawyer in the Canadian North. There are many unresolved issues in terms of the Aboriginal file. The other area is the environment. This is an area where I think the provinces are going to lead rather than the federal government. The Premier here (Gordon Campbell) said he really wants to make the environment a priority and he's in a position to do so. I think what's happened is the provincial government is a bit closer to the people.

The federal government, for all the talk, is quite removed from the everyday Canadian.

What was your proudest moment in Parliament?

Negotiating section 35 of the Constitution, that's the Aboriginal rights section. The Liberals didn't have any seats west of Axworthy in Manitoba, so they needed some NDP seats in the West. I wasn't going to do it without the Aboriginal amendment.

What needs to be done in Parliament now?

I think it needs a genuine commitment on the environment and on global warming. I think the politicians are way behind the young people.

The Hon. Nick Taylor

Liberal Senator Nick Taylor's background as a geologist helped him in his fight for environmental issues during his six-year service.

Originally from Alberta, Taylor served as a Senator from 1996 to 2002. He sat on the human rights committee, energy and environment, agriculture and forestry, national finance and foreign affairs and international trade. He also chaired the Subcommittee on the Boreal Forest during the 36th Parliament. Now, in his retirement, he says he continues to fight for issues that are important to him.

How did you get involved in federal politics?

I started as a school board trustee because in those days political pressures decided where schools should be built. I realized that the finances of education was definitely in provincial hands, but before I ran provincially, in 1968, Trudeau-mania came along and that was an interesting time. Trudeau asked me to ask a man in Winnipeg, by the name of James Richardson, if he would run as a candidate. So I gave him all the reasons he should run: the country needed him, somebody has to do it, how talented he was. He said 'I can apply that to you too.

If you run, I'll run.'

What issues were you most passionate about as a Senator?

I'm a geologist so Mother Earth was always a big issue. There are quite important issues like water quality, air quality. The other issue I had was trying to get population growth, encouraging it into Northern Alberta where all the water was. I had no success at that.

What was your proudest accomplishment?

Because of my geologist interest, I was made chairman of the Senate committee on the environment and I was quite influential in persuading Jean Chretien to finally ratify the Kyoto Accord. Some of my Western MPs were not very happy about that; they were very exploitative oriented. That was my biggest joy: seeing Canada join the Kyoto accord.

What's the biggest political issue that needs attention now?

Environment is the flavour of the day. Every 20 years we seem to spread all our money and time cleaning up what we do wrong whether that's sulphur or sewage and right now we're trying to clean up pollution from automobiles. Every generation should be shooting to leave the world better than they found it.

What are you doing now in your retirement?

I work mostly with seniors' organizations. We gained a victory recently in Calgary. Seniors that are in their homes will be allowed to charge their property taxes against the property for the day it will be sold, allowing them more capital to live on and not having to suffer for the increase in the cost of housing because of the boom. We now have to solve transportation problems for seniors.

The Hon. Norman Cafik

Elected in 1968 as a Liberal, Norman Cafik was never one to sit back and wish for change without taking action. Cafik was appointed Minister of Multiculturalism, in 1977, and was one of the first people of Ukrainian descent to be ap-



pointed to the Canadian cabinet.

Now, in his retirement, Cafik is just grateful he has more time to spend with his family, a rare luxury for politicians back then, he says.

How did you get involved in politics?

Before I was involved in politics, I voted for John Diefenbaker in the minority government. I voted for him again in the majority government. He made such a mess of the job that I helped get him elected to, I decided to help get him defeated. They originally wanted me as the sacrificial lamb.



What were the issues of the day then?

When I first got elected NATO and NORAD and Canada's role in that were the big issues. There were a lot of issues before the public accounts commission that I was involved in. That was an important issue to me.

How has parliament changed since you served?

How has parliament changed? Of course it's changed very significantly. Parliament, when I was elected in 1968, sat an enormous number of hours compared to today. The house sat at 10 a.m. until 11 o'clock in the evening. On Friday, we ended at about four or five o'clock. Back then you had no time for your family or anything else. It was a very difficult time.

Sophia Leung

Sophia Leung didn't intend to pursue a career in politics, but her social work gained her a reputation as a woman determined to make a difference.



Her work as a Liberal MP in Vancouver-Kingsway, 1997 to 2003, earned her an appointment to the Order of Canada in 2004.

Now, she wants to help young people break the barriers she was able to shatter as a visible minority.

What made you interested in politics?

I was trained as a social worker but

I was very active in the community. I served over 20 organizations. Because of this, Prime Minister Jean Chretien asked me to represent the Liberals for Vancouver Kingsway. In parliament, women are still a minority. Women are 57 per cent in the country and the ratio in the House of Commons is less than 20 per cent. I was elected as the first Asian woman.

What was it like to be a woman and a minority in Parliament?

When I got to parliament, the guards, said 'where is your badge?' I said I don't need one. They thought I was staff. Even on the grounds of Parliament there is subtle discrimination. So I thought I have to really make a difference. And I thought 'I'm going to work very hard to represent the west because the west is a minority.'

Did you have any past political experience?

I had no experience in politics. Some people move up from municipal or provincial politics. I had to learn very quickly. I took it very seriously. I was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the National Revenue file.

What was one issue you tried to focus on as a politician?

Being elected was a good opportunity for me to train young people because this is where you let them come in and learn. Right now, they're still in contact with me. I try to say, look, if I can do it, you can do it.

What are you doing now?

I continue to do volunteer work. Because I believe in education. Education is really the key to break through. As long as I have my health, I want to give more to this country.

Wally Firth

Wally Firth prides himself on the fact that he was able to change and even save lives during his time as a NDP Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories. Firth was the first Native politician from the North to win a seat in the House, serving from 1972 to 1979. He used those years to fight for more representation in the North, successfully splitting the Northwest Territories riding into two.



What drew you to political life?

What brought me to parliament was

helping to organize native organizations in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Before then I was a broadcaster with the CBC in Yellowknife. I had a good following and I guess people liked my attitude.

What was one of the first things you did when you got into office?

One of the very first things I did was to save a man's life. A bush pilot was lost on the bare lands in northern Yellowknife. They looked for days and the search was called off. A day after I was elected his girlfriend called me and said 'Wally get that search started again, I know he's alive.' So I got the search started and he was found.

What did you focus on while you were in office?

Housing, education and health matters. That's what all Canadians really need, especially native people.

What was one of the biggest issues you had to deal with?

At that time the big issue was building a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. Our stand was no, no pipeline. First settle land claims and then after you settle land claims, then we'll talk. They took a little while but now we have native organizations that I worked on and there were some claims settled.

What was one of your greatest accomplishments?

I got the riding of the Northwest Territories split into two. I (was) lobbying and talking to people, so I continued to campaign for two or three years. One day I received a letter from Prime Minister Trudeau saying he would support me. The Liberals picked up the bill and it went through the house in 20 minutes. Not many people can brag that they had their bill go through the house. I helped the native cause in Canada and the story of the native brotherhood is a story in itself.

What should parliament look toward in the future?

I think we need to make progress, we have to encourage people who are willing to run as independents and New Democrats. Get people who are knowledgeable and form a coalition government.

Otherwise we're going to go from minority government to minority government.

Gordon Smith on Canada in Afghanistan

by Katie DeRosa

“What is being asked of our military is beyond their reach.”

The troops in Afghanistan are fighting a losing battle due to a lack of resources and a lack of commitment from other NATO countries, a foreign affairs and political science expert said in a speech to the CAFP members.

The speech was delivered by Gordon Smith, the executive director of the Centre for Global Studies and political science professor at the University of Victoria, on the last day of the B.C. regional meeting. Smith said Canada is in so deep that a speedy withdrawal could be dangerous for the Afghan people.

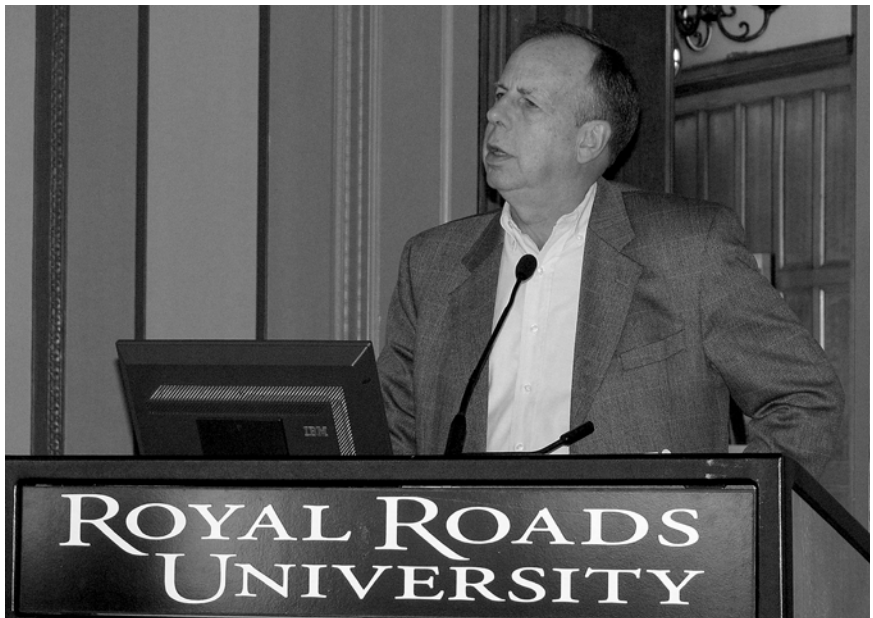
In the glamorous ballroom of historic Hatley Castle, Smith spoke of a recently released report called, “*Canada in Afghanistan; Is it working?*” Smith answered this question bluntly. “My one conclusion to that is, no, it’s not working.”

Smith, also the fellow and advisory council member of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, the organization that published the report, said the resources being devoted to the mission – troops and military dollars – are not enough to overcome the Taliban in the brutal Kandahar region.

Canada moved to the volatile region in 2005 after other NATO member countries decided to volunteer in more secure provinces. Since then, the Canadian Forces have become the target of many Taliban attacks and have sustained the highest number of casualties per capita among all NATO countries.

“What is being asked of our military is beyond their reach,” Smith said.

Another problem, he said, is that Canada, the United States and Britain are shouldering most of the burden while other NATO countries, who don’t see this as their war, are not pulling their weight.



Gordon Smith, Executive Director for Global Studies, says Canada got into the war in Afghanistan without the word war ever being mentioned. “It was astonishing,” he said.

Smith also cites the larger problem as the ambiguity from parliament on the Canadian role in Afghanistan, which was never expressly set out before the mission. He says there was a lack of parliamentary debate about what the mission actually meant for Canada when the country decided to send its troops.

“This story of how we got engaged in a conflict war in Afghanistan is nothing short of astonishing,” he said. “The word war or insurgency was never mentioned. It really is a war that we didn’t know we were getting into.”

Smith called the political debate surrounding how long the Canadian troops should stay in Afghanistan “appalling bad” and said the issue has been oversimplified for the sake of partisan politics.

“The debate became one of trying to score points and missed the fact that 75 Canadians have lost their lives and more will.”

Smith said he supports the independent review committee headed by former Liberal deputy prime minister John Manley. The five-person committee created by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in October have now advised parliamentarians about what Canada’s role in Af-

ghanistan should be after their current mission ends in February 2009.

But withdrawal from Afghanistan becomes increasingly difficult with high expectations from the Afghan people that the Canadians will stay until the situation stabilizes, he says, which could be years away.

Smith cited an October 2007 survey conducted by Michael Adams of the Environments Research centre showing many Afghans see positive improvements in their lives as a result of Canada’s development assistance: more children are attending school and stronger women’s rights.

Smith’s speech sparked a serious round of questions from members. Former cabinet minister Anthony Abbott pointed out that while many NATO countries aim at serving the people of Afghanistan, it has been left to a few nations to do the heavy lifting. Abbott said that could be one reason why Canada has grounds to pull out of the mission.

“My point was that because we’ve been engaged and given people hope, because we’ve been instrumental in getting girls into schools – we’re wearing Afghanistan,” said Smith. “It’s going to be very, very hard for us to walk away.”

Partnership strong with American Association

“Of the 1,000 living former Congressmen in America, more than 600 are signed up with the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.”

by Mark Masters

One of the great pastimes of Canadian pundits and political observers is to measure our nation against the United States. Our neighbours to the south are omnipresent in our political system and in recent years that has extended into the realm of retired political life.

According to Peter Weichlein, executive director of the US Association of Former Members of Congress, the relationship between his group and its sister organization in Canada is growing by the year.

“What started out as a friendly and neighbourly overture during the last couple of years has taken on a more proactive and issue-based specific tone, especially with the election monitoring institute and international organizations,” said Weichlein.

Of the 1,000 living former Congressmen in America more than 600 are signed up with the US Association of Former Members of Congress, which was formed in the 1970s and was chartered by Congress in the early 1980s. The organization will soon be preparing for its 30th anniversary.

The two organizations have worked closely on the International Election Monitoring Institute since 2004; a project Weichlein said helped “formalize the working relationship” between the two associations.

“We have a joint goal of bringing the expertise of former legislators worldwide and that is a unifying force,” he says.

Meanwhile, the American association has been exporting their expertise north

of the border as well as overseas. As part of their Congress to Campus program, similar to the schools program initiated by CAFP, former Congressmen go to universities in Canada each year, although in smaller numbers.

“We started sending small bipartisan delegations to Canada to reach out to Canadian university students and give them a chance to hear about U. S. foreign policy and cross-border issues from an American perspective,” said Weichlein. “It’s been a small project with only a handful of members heading up each year, but we’ve done it for a couple years now and it offers students a real sit down with our members.”

In the United States the Congress to Campus program reaches anywhere between 35 and 40 schools a year. The group also posts videos to its website in order to broaden its appeal to younger, more Internet-savvy students.

Weichlein says there have been no political problems between the two organizations, despite the tension that sometimes pervades the cross-border relationship.

“We’re non-political, non-advocacy and bipartisan,” he says. “Although both our members and yours are keenly aware of what’s going on despite leaving the political arena.”

Weichlein says he hopes to continue to build a strong relationship with CAFP.

“We have benefited greatly from our working relationship with our colleagues in Ottawa and I’m thrilled we’ve gotten to a point where we truly are sister organizations.”

Election rules and changes over the years

1867 to early 1900s: a person’s right to vote was based on more than just their age and criminal record but on how much they made and how much property they owned. But in the early 1870s labour union members began to call for universal suffrage and by the turn of the century provinces slowly opened up voting regardless of income.

1918: Sir Robert Borden, through the Military Voters Act, opened up the vote to military nurses, known as the Bluebirds and one year later women were granted the right to hold office.

1920: the Dominion Elections Act established advanced voting and created the post of chief electoral officer, which was first held by Oliver Mowat Biggar.

1921: the first election is held where women can have their say at the polls.

1950: Inuits are granted the right to vote.

1972: 18 year olds can vote in the federal election, as the voting age is lowered from 21

1992: changes are made to the Elections Act to ensure access to the vote for people with disabilities. In the same year, the Referendum Act provides the legal and administrative framework for holding a federal referendum.

1993: the use of the special ballot permits voting by anyone who cannot vote on election day or at an advance poll including Canadians living or traveling abroad.

1996: longer and more staggered voting hours are created to ensure more Canadians have a chance to cast a ballot. The National Register of Electors is also created which eliminated door-to-door enumeration.

2004: Bill C-24 was passed in an effort to address concerns about unbridled spending in nomination and leadership races. One provision prevents candidates from hiding the identity of donors.

2006: the Federal Accountability Act is passed, which puts a cap on campaign contributions and donations and restricts corporations, trade unions and associations from making political contributions.

2007: the Conservative government introduces legislation that would require all voters to show their faces before being allowed to vote in federal elections.

– Katie DeRosa

Doing politics in Manitoba

Manitobans are a pretty skeptical group of people, generally very aware of what's going on in the world and very independent thinkers. They appreciate outspokenness, but it has to be tempered by good sense.

by Dorothy Dobbie

Manitoba is a strange political bird. There is The City and then the rest of the province. About 60 per cent of the population of just fewer than 1.2 million is in the metropolitan area of Winnipeg (pop. 712,700). This creates a vast disproportion between the capital and the next largest city, which is Brandon (pop. 41,500).

There are three even smaller cities, with populations just under the 15,000 mark, and the rest of the voters are thinly spread from Churchill to the border, the majority of them within a hundred and fifty miles of Winnipeg.

This means that doing politics in Manitoba depends on where you are doing them. In addition to the urban, rural split, riding sizes vary wildly, with the largest-by-population being in Winnipeg and the smallest-by-population (but the largest geographically) being in the vast hinterland of Churchill. Serving these communities takes energy and ingenuity and most candidates necessarily concentrate on the few larger population centres in the region.

In addition, Manitobans are a pretty skeptical group of people, generally very aware of what's going on in the world and very independent thinkers. They appreciate outspokenness, but it has to be tempered by good sense.

My personal experience is in Winnipeg, where I represented Winnipeg South, the now defunct, largest-by-population riding in the province – at that time about 90,000 people – and also the

largest by geography in Winnipeg.

This was a typical suburban riding, where electioneering by door knocking could be a challenge. Most of the families were headed by two income earners, so effective face-to-face encounters were largely an evening thing. A group of a dozen supporters and I would invade a neighbourhood, with the canvassers doing the door knocking and announcing that the candidate was in the neighbourhood and setting up opportunities to meet. This was supported by Saturday canvassing at city shopping malls and frequent coffee meetings at voters' homes.

Our best exposure came from doing Burma shaves on major arteries at rush hour and, 15 years later, people still remember me and my collection of stalwart supporters standing knee deep in snow, smiling and waving and each carrying signs with portions of ridiculous sayings such as “Honk, if you love Dorothy!” or something equally inane.

Town hall debates were popular then, too, and I loved them, but eventually the competition began to refuse the challenge of public debate.

While nothing will ever beat the warm smile and the handshake in electioneering, the realities of today require a more creative approach. Back in the day, telephones were the number one electronic communications choice. Today, you're lucky if anyone will answer their landline. That means that being in public places is even more important. Go where the people are, no matter where.



Dorothy Dobbie now publishes magazines for a living.

The creative candidate today places more emphasis on the Internet and mass emails. Instead of just setting up the usual site and maybe doing a blog or two, some candidates are actively using emails to get their messages out and to consolidate support among their identified vote. Some run three- or four-question email surveys, others pass on up-to-the-minute information and all work effectively to keep the converted in the tent.

Media remains important, but you need to be in control of the situation and not allow yourself to be put into a debate where it's three or four against one. Have a simple message and repeat it. Asking reporters to redefine their question usually gives you time to think and confuses the heck out of them!

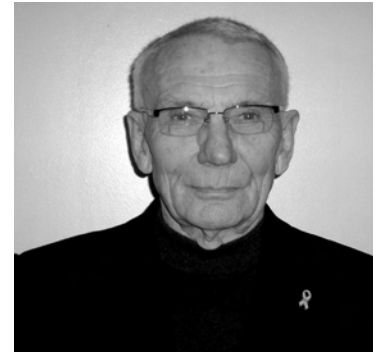
But in the end, it comes down to the warmth and personality of the candidate and two excellent examples come to mind. Former Progressive Conservative MP Felix Holtman had a big smile and an easy manner. He said what he thought, which was often controversial, but he could make people laugh and feel good and forgive him for almost anything. The other was former Liberal MP, Lloyd Axworthy, who was a master at inclusion – at one time he was reported to have more people working for him than for the Prime Minister. Both of these politicians had a way of bringing people into the tent and making them feel well served.

At the end of the day, that's a pretty important part of doing politics anywhere.

Doing politics in P. E. I. with George Proud

"You go to the racetrack and the hockey rink. You might not see the races, you might not see the hockey, but you see the people."

by Katie DeRosa



George Proud.

As a Liberal MP from Hillsborough in Prince Edward Island from 1988 to 2000, George Proud made a commitment to do more than just serve his constituents. He says the key to political success in a small town like his is knowing the people and listening to their concerns, even if you have to do it at the local Tim Hortons.

In your region what are the special or unusual aspects of an election campaign?

My first election campaign was in March and April of 1974, provincially, and [P. E. I.] is probably different from the bigger areas. Because this is a small area, you have to go to each and every household.

If you don't go there they're not going to be very happy and probably won't vote for you or on the other hand they'll call your house at night and tell you, you weren't there.

Those are things that I think would be different from say Ottawa or other bigger areas.

Of course you know everyone, which is sometimes good and sometimes it isn't. But everybody knows you and they expect you to come and see them. And what you find here, is that even when I was a federal Member of Parliament, people would call me on provincial or municipal issues and I tried to help them whenever I could.

Did you continue that personal relationship with the local people when you served federally?

Oh very much so. I used to be kind of ridiculed for it, but my first place to go every day was Tim Hortons. And it would be packed and everyone would come over and talk to me. I remember one time I was in an interview with someone from the CBC and he said people kind of laugh at you for going to Tim Hor-

tons, but every time something negative is said about it you pick up 100 votes and I said that's right, I mean, that's where the people go. So you go to the racetrack and the hockey rink. You might not see the races, you might not see the hockey, but you see the people.

What is the key to political success in your region?

The key to political success is trying your best to look after the concerns of the people in your constituency. Maybe you can't do anything for them but if you tell them that, then okay, they accept it. There might not be any way that you can help them, but at least talk to them, return their phone calls.

Who are some successful politicians in your area?

There was one man in particular who wasn't on the same side of politics as me; he was an MP for years. Heath McQuarrie was in the district I was in. He retired and went on to the Senate. He was a terrific politician. He knew everybody and he went everywhere. To me he was the super politician – he knew how to be in the right place at the right time and he knew the people. He was one of those people who just happened to know it, and I sort of emulated him in a way. And another one today right now is Lawrence MacAulay. Lawrence has been in Parliament now since I was there in '88 and he's still there going on 20 years.

What are the big issues in your region?

One of the big issues is agriculture. There's a big problem in the beef industry, the pork industry. They're not making any money in the plants and they're not getting any money for their products.

It's a crisis right at the present time and everybody's trying to play a part in it. I guess they haven't got enough prod-

uct to make it a better industry. They're making good products, but they're raising stock that costs them more to raise than they're getting for it. That's the big issue on the plate right now, of course there's always health care and things like that.

What needs to be done about it?

Everybody wants the federal and the provincial government to kick in money and I don't know what the answer is. But I don't think that's the answer. I think there has to be some other way. They have to diversify or go out and get other markets, go into specialized markets for their beef and pork. But that takes time of course and time is money, so I guess the quick fix they look for is government assistance, but I don't think that's the answer to it.

How have the issues in the region changed?

They've changed dramatically because of the computer, internet, but in PEI there's still that lack of permanent jobs, a lot of seasonal work, in the fishing industry and the farming industry and the tourist industry. And they're working on very sophisticated stuff in science here, we have a very good national research centre here that's doing things in medicine and that is something they are really going to put the effort into, to try and create jobs for these young people coming out of university, for these young people who are educated in this industry. But there are still an awful lot of islanders leaving to go somewhere else where the jobs are. That leaves the population static and even less than that. So the task of every Premier and Prime Minister that's been around in my lifetime is to keep the young people here. So far, there have been some successes but obviously not enough.

Senator Neiman remembers

by Katie DeRosa



Senator Joan Neiman lays a wreath on Remembrance Day, a very personal experience for someone who is a veteran herself.

Senator Joan Neiman beamed with pride as she clutched the CAFP wreath and set it down against the cenotaph on November 11, 2007, during one of Ottawa's largest Remembrance Day ceremonies in history.

Senator Neiman, a veteran of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, was chosen by the Association to place the wreath at the foot of the iconic monument. More than 30,000 people were reported to have crowded the streets, watching from the hills of Parliament and down Elgin and Rideau Streets.

The day was frigidly cold but the sun was bright and it shone down, reflecting off the medals decorating the veterans' chests. Two rows of Royal Canadian Legion honour guards raised their flags, as Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General Michaëlle Jean walked the red carpeted stairs leading up to the cenotaph. The notes of a lone trumpeter floated among the crowd minutes before the 11 strokes of the Peace Tower at 11 a.m.

Upon the last stroke, everyone's neck craned upwards to watch two Hornet fighter planes zoom overhead as the vet-

erans raised their arms in salute. Later, the piercing notes of the bagpipe floated across the procession. In the crowd thousands of people huddled together and rubbed their mittens together as they joined in a powerful rendition of Oh Canada.

One of the day's speaker's was Rabbi Dr. Reuven Bulka who delivered a moving speech.

"We applaud these heroic Canadians. Our heart goes out to our troops," he said. "We love our troops because of their selflessness.

"Through them we gain a vivid appreciation for all the veterans who fought for Canada. We love and commemorate our veterans who fought for a world of peace and harmony. We love our veterans for the freedom we enjoy thanks to them."

After the ceremony, from the Naval Officers' Mess at HMCS Bytown, Senator Neiman talked about her service in the navy that began more than six decades ago.

Neiman, 87, joined the navy during the Second World War, when she was

just finishing university.

"I waited for the navy. They were the last to allow women in the services," Neiman said. She was in the very first class of women, listed as W20.

"There are more and more women joining the forces now than in my day," said Neiman, noting about one third of the crew is female.

Neiman was based in Ottawa. She was in charge of keeping track of the officer's information, like their training information or promotions.

Neiman said she felt a great sense of pride when she walked up to place the wreath in front of her fellow veterans.

"It's really an honour for me because of all the friends I knew during the war time and those who didn't make it back. I'd see the names of some of the boys I'd met. Some of them had been good friends. So I was thinking of a lot of them today."

Neiman also said she was happy to see so many people, especially young people, come together to remember the veterans.

"I was very happy to be part of the day."

Famous walks in Canadian History

By Keith Penner



David Thompson's "walk in the snow" took him on a journey through the Rocky Mountains in sub zero weather.



La Vérendrye was looking for a river that flowed to the Pacific but found the Missouri River.



Samuel Hearne's "walk in the snow" lasted two years and seven months, but he was the first European to reach the Arctic from the interior.

It is reported that Pierre Trudeau, during the evening of February 28, 1984, took a long solitary stroll along Sussex Drive in Ottawa, with a blizzard still blowing. The next day, he met some journalists and told them that he had taken a "walk in the snow" and had decided to retire as the Prime Minister of Canada.

In the history of Canada, there have been other famous "walks in the snow." Mostly, these walks were more arduous than the Trudeau jaunt and they expanded the boundaries of a young nation.

Pierre La Vérendrye in 1738 journeyed some 1,500 miles to a place called Old Crossing in what is now the State of Montana. He was on a search for a river that flowed west into the Pacific. At Old Crossing he found the Missouri River at a point where it turned strongly southwest. To him this looked like the river west.

High bluffs, however, prevented La Vérendrye from seeing that downstream the Missouri returned to its southeast flow and was not the sought after river to the west. Physically exhausted, La

Vérendrye struggled back to what is now Portage La Prairie, arriving in January 1739. Never again did he display his earlier strength and determination. He did not at this time find the river west, but he is remembered as the one who pushed back the frontier of New France, all the way to Manitoba.

Samuel Hearne joined the Hudson's Bay Company in 1766, signing on as a first mate on one of the company's vessels. At that time, the chief trader at Fort Prince of Wales (Churchill) had heard that there was a significant copper deposit at the mouth of the Coppermine River, north of the Arctic Circle.

Samuel Hearne was charged with the expedition to determine the extent of these copper deposits and to discover if the Coppermine River was navigable. He left York Factory, Hudson Bay on December 7, 1770 accompanied by Matonabee, a Chipewan Chief who enjoyed great prestige, not only within his own tribe, but, as well, among the Cree tribes of Athabasca.

The trip lasted for two years and seven

months. In July 1771, Hearne reached the Arctic Ocean. During this time he also discovered Great Slave Lake. He is honoured to this day as the first European to reach the Arctic from the interior. An ocean and a lake were discovered, but not much copper was found.

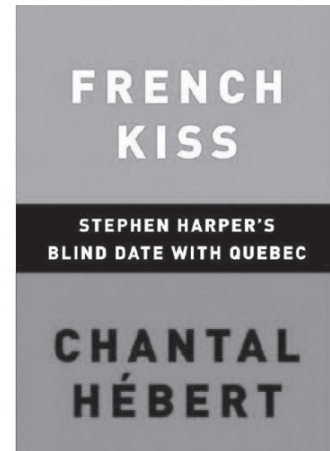
The Canadian explorer, David Thompson, on December 29, 1810, set out on snowshoes from Boggy Hall, located north of Rocky Mountain House, in 20 below zero weather to cross the Rockies via the Athabasca Pass (near today's Jasper, Alberta). He and his party, after enduring much hunger and hardship, reached the fork of the Columbia and Canoe Rivers on January 11, 1811. His men refused to push ahead any further. Later, with others, Thompson traveled the full length of the Columbia and back again. He was the first man to do so.

Walking in the snow is what many of us do in the winter. Usually, it is for recreation or out of necessity. There were those who preceded us, though, who took these "walks in the snow" and in doing so, helped to form our country.

French Kiss: Stephen Harper's blind date with Quebec

Hébert points out that Quebec is not alone in trying to reverse the plundering of provincial rights and responsibilities by the Federal government.

Reviewed by Bob Ringma



“French Kiss: Stephen Harper’s blind date with Quebec” by Chantal Hébert. The intriguing title got my attention but the contents kept me reading. While writing about Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s successful overture to Quebec in the 2006 election, Chantal Hébert stimulates one’s political appetite. She does a thorough job of analyzing Harper’s strengths and weaknesses, but she does equally well critiquing Jean Chrétien, Paul Martin and the Bloc Québécois.

The “blind date” part of the title is questionable, in that Harper knew quite well whom he was dating. It is appropriate though, in the sense that the results of the date might have been a surprise to him, and to others as well.

The book’s title is also somewhat deceptive in that its contents are wider ranging than just Harper and Quebec. Hébert demonstrates an excellent understanding of the broader Canadian political scene. She delves into the backgrounds of all Canadian political parties sufficiently to give credibility to her present-day observations.

Hébert points out that Quebec is not alone in trying to reverse the plundering of provincial rights and responsibilities

by the Federal government. It is a view shared by other provinces and by today’s federal Conservatives. Harper’s policy on this subject undoubtedly contributed to his modest success in Quebec in 2006 and in the September 2007 by-elections.

Relating Quebec and Canada to the outside world, Hébert makes the interesting observation that changing world conditions such as the advent of the internet, the war in Bosnia, the break-up of the former Soviet Union and the 9/11 terrorist attacks, have changed and matured Canadians of all stripes. In her opinion, official bilingualism has been displaced by these other events as front-runners for our attention.

In a similar vein, Hébert states that the heavy influx of immigrants to Quebec from the Muslim areas of the Middle East and North Africa is colouring Quebec’s approach to the international scene. Their familiarity with the French language, rather than English, contributes to a further differentiation of the Quebec view of global events, particularly the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Prime Minister Harper and the Conservatives must take this into account in

their bid for a majority government.

The author appears to be creating a new Canadian shibboleth. She talks about an Alberta-Quebec conservative coalition rather than a Western coalition with Quebec. It is not clear if she does so in recognition of Harper’s Alberta connection, or the wealth of that province, but the term “Alberta-Quebec” stands out in the book.

Hébert’s handling of the “sponsorship scandal” is instructive. She does a good job of refuting the idea, prevalent in the rest of Canada, that Quebec is on the take.

She states that bribes by the federal Liberals or Mulroney’s Conservatives did not impress Quebecers to the degree that many Canadians believe.

Stephen Harper may have been kissed in 2006, but he didn’t get bedded. On-lookers will be interested in following the sexual metaphor in the months ahead.

Whether Quebec and Alberta confirm their union in a future election, produce a majority and live happily ever after must be the subject of another book. Let’s see if it gets published.

Bob Ringma was an MP for the Reform Party for Nanaimo-Cowichan, British Columbia, from 1994 to 1997.

Become a reviewer for Beyond the Hill

Have you read a political, policy or parliamentary book recently that you want to share with others? Write a review for Beyond the Hill.

Send it to:

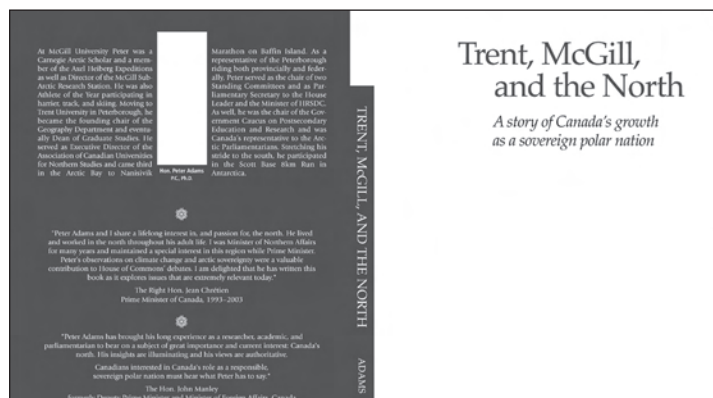
Beyond the Hill, P.O. Box 1, 131 Queen Street,
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Or call us at 1-888-567-4764

Email at exparl@parl.gc.ca

Peter Adams on thick ice

Reviewed by Joe Jordan



Trent, McGill and the North: a story of Canada's growth as a sovereign polar nation. By Peter Adams.

When Peter Adams was first elected as a Liberal MP in 1993, he used to say that almost a year of life on a glacier had been good preparation for the pace of life in the House of Commons. Having read his new book on the Arctic, I now have a better idea about what he meant.

This book is a memoir of Adams' life and work in the North, from the 1960s to the 21st century, brought together by chapters summarizing aspects of the science and politics of the period.

As a student at McGill University, Adams was a member of expeditions that mapped and studied a region of Axel Heiberg Island in what is now Nunavut, at 80 degrees North. The field station that they established is still operated by McGill, nowadays, among many other things, as a Mars simulation site.

He lived on a glacier for the better part of a year. These expeditions were the first in Canada to involve students in research and teaching activities in the High Arctic.

After graduation, Adams first job, as a faculty member at McGill, was as director of the McGill Sub Arctic Research Laboratory located in what was then the thriving mining town of Schefferville, in the middle of the Quebec-Labrador peninsula. He, Jill and their family lived there for three years. The Laboratory was a place of research and

teaching, turning out four master's students a year and serving as a base for field trips. As in the case of Axel Heiberg, McGill still maintains a field station in Schefferville.

Then Adams became the Founder Chair of Geography at the newly formed, Trent University in Peterborough. Trent was a "new and new style" university with an early interest in polar and indigenous peoples studies. The new department developed studies of snow and ice, based on the McGill examples. Trent students, undergraduate and graduate, began to use the Quebec-Labrador station on a regular basis and later began to work on Axel Heiberg Island, in the High Arctic. Adams describes the influence of the "old" (McGill) on the "new" (Trent) and of the new on the old.

The "growth as a sovereign polar nation" part of the book is essentially a comparison between the evolution of cold weather science and technology through the McGill and Trent examples and the evolution of Canada's capacity as a steward of its North.

At the beginning of the book, McGill was virtually the only university in Canada working in the North. There were government researchers there (not many) but they were not producing their own successors through teaching. McGill kick started our production of homegrown polar researchers.

Trent is presented as an example of the ripple effects of those early efforts

as they spread through the country. Adams says that this is a microcosm of what was happening to the country as a whole. At the beginning of his book, weather stations in the high Arctic were joint Canada-US projects. The US Air Force had completed much of the aerial photography of our North. The Inuit did not have the vote and the Territorial governments were creatures of the federal government. Our capacity for sovereignty was weak.

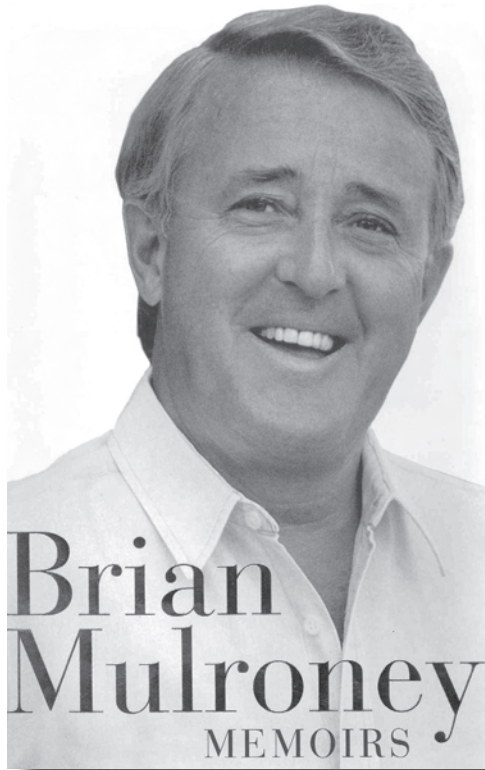
Today, in Adams' view, we are in great shape to be responsible stewards of our Arctic. He believes that we are in fact much better than we know. In his view, faced with real sovereignty challenges in the North, our main task is to focus and coordinate, federally, nationally and internationally, what we have already built.

If you are bored at this point, read about Jill's drive through a blizzard to give birth to one of their kids, Adams' escapes from a crevasse and a snow camp fire and a camp destroyed by wolves. For those interested in climate change, the huge glacier on which Adams lived, measured by McGill and Trent over the years, has shrunk steadily for more than half a century. The part where he lived so long ago exists no longer.

He was right, his life in the North did prepare him for the House of Commons!

Joe Jordan served two terms alongside Peter Adams (1997-04).

The Mulroney years



Reviewed by Mark Masters

Memoirs: 1939-1993. By Brian Mulroney.

Brian Mulroney's *Memoirs* is an extensive portrayal of his life ending with his resignation as prime minister in 1993. The former Progressive Conservative leader leaves no stone unturned in detailing his youth, rise to power and then his time spent at 24 Sussex Drive.

The early parts of the book are slow and develop at a plodding pace. However, it is nonetheless interesting in the context of current investigations into the former prime minister's dealings with German businessman Karlheinz Schreiber. Mulroney was raised in a working-class family where his family often-times had to scrape by to make ends meet. These roots often led to Mulroney ruminating about potential financial pitfalls in his own life. Although Schreiber is never mentioned Mulroney often writes about the inability for politicians to earn a true nest egg through plying their trade.

The book picks up, however, when Mulroney delves into his political life.

Mulroney's mentor is revealed to be John Diefenbaker, whom he looked up to and fought for during the many campaigns of his youth. The affection is clear even when Diefenbaker uses his farewell address at the 1976 leadership convention to rip into his protégé thus dooming his prospects and still Mulroney professes his support for the person he affectionately refers to throughout the book as "the Chief".

Mulroney's rise is all the more remarkable considering he became party leader without ever serving in the House of Commons. He details how he was able to build a solid network of supporters in key areas without entering the actual arena.

Critics of Mulroney who criticize the Baie-Comeau native for being a lap dog of his American counterparts, Ronald Reagan and British colleague Margaret Thatcher, may be surprised to learn of the complexities of their relationships. Mulroney outlines how despite his personal friendships for both leaders he of-

ten sparred with them, with Reagan over environmental matters and Thatcher on ending Apartheid in South Africa.

The story of how the free trade agreement was reached is also offered in suspenseful fashion, giving readers a front row seat to the meetings where the most important economic measure of Mulroney's term nearly fell apart. The former prime minister writes about ordering his negotiators to leave the table only to have the Americans make a last second concession on dispute settlement clauses and save the deal.

The other major theme in the book is Mulroney's love for his home province of Quebec, which is clearly his main passion in politics. His determined resolve to rebuild his party in La Belle Province led to his two majority victories. As well his often-times Herculean efforts to bring Quebec into the constitution are outlined in excruciating detail as is his disdain for Pierre Trudeau, whom he heaps a great deal of blame on for the failure of the Meech Lake Accord.

Indeed Mulroney's assessment of Trudeau is far from flattering and includes a description of an egotistical and even anti-Semitic former Liberal leader.

The other major target of Mulroney's is the Ottawa press gallery, whom he says took a biased approach to reporting on his administration.

In the end Mulroney's book serves two ends. One it is a case for his premiership and his place in Canadian history. He argues that the free trade accord, introduction of the GST, environmental efforts including the Acid Rain Treaty and performance overseas including helping end Apartheid in South Africa make him and his governments among the best Canada has ever had.

The other goal in the book is to draw a road map for future Conservatives who seek power in Canada. He writes about the need to build coalitions and reach out to Quebecers and the West. Despite the rise of the Reform Party and Bloc Quebecois during his mandate he argues his government did more positive for each province than they were ever given credit for.

In the end Mulroney is fighting for his reputation and in the 1,000 plus page

The fight for democracy

“... we are discovering just how hard it is for countries to make the transition from authoritarian to democratic government.”

by Robert Miller, President,
Parliamentary Centre



Robert Miller

I am one of those naïve souls who believes democracy is inevitable but like many others, I have learned just how long and twisting the road to democracy can be. My education in this regard continued during a recent visit to Thailand.

In recent years, democracy promoters often cited Thailand as a success story, a country that finally made the transition to stable democracy after a long run of military coups going back to the establishment of constitutional government in 1932. Many thought the constitution adopted in 1997 was a model of its kind. Both the content and the process by which it had been drafted were widely admired.

Despite all this, the military launched yet another coup in September 2006, suspending the constitution and sending the democratically elected politicians home or into exile. What happened? How could the democratic gains be so easily reversed?

The Thai people themselves are puzzling over those questions. During my visit to Bangkok, I talked to the editor of one of the leading newspapers in the country. He described himself as a life-long democrat who had supported the coup and now found himself under attack for having betrayed democracy. He was scathing in his description of Thai electoral democracy for its corruption and cynicism. In his mind, there were only two faint hopes for the country: the courts and the widely revered King. He argued that democracy without respect for rule of law was often just another form of tyranny.

Whether the editor is right in his as-

essment of Thai democracy or not, his quandary is now felt by many who hoped the country had at last found a sure road to democracy. Instead it has turned out to be more like one of those switch back roads in the mountains, snaking its way forwards and backwards with hairpin curves along the way. Many Thais wonder whether the road to democracy exists at all.

Democracy promoters have coined a term to describe the sudden loss of confidence in the prospects for democracy. They call it “freedom stagnation” and they cite three main pieces of evidence: the number of new electoral democracies has ceased to grow; some countries like Thailand have been democratic backsliders; and some other countries (e. g. Russia) have pushed back against the democracy movement.

What are we to make of this?

In my view we are discovering just how hard it is for countries to make the

transition from authoritarian to democratic government. The so-called third wave of democracy, the sudden surge in the number of electoral democracies, has turned out in some cases to be more froth than water. The challenge of converting the practice of elections into the culture of democracy has just begun.

The latest twist in the Thai story suggests the people are far from giving up on democracy despite their disappointments. Recent parliamentary elections amounted to a sharp poke in the eye for the coup makers but there is every sign that the military has accepted the results and will return to the barracks. But will the politicians learn their lessons? Will meaningful curbs be placed on corruption? Will contempt for the law be replaced by democratic accountability? If not, there may be more coups to come for it can be said of democracies what is often said of governments: they are not defeated, they defeat themselves.

In our next issue:

Coverage of the Annual General Meeting. “We were there” photos and reporting.

The founding of Québec. Québec celebrates its 400th anniversary July 3.

Election monitoring. The role of former parliamentarians in keeping world democracy healthy.

The road ahead: A feature on the strategic planning session of your Association.

And much, much more.

Seventeen months make a lifetime impression

by Terry Grier

“ . . . we shared a quiet pride that I had, after six years of campaigning, finally made it here, a member of the nation’s most important governing body.”

It was a little more than 35 years ago that my very brief life as an MP began.

The general election of November 1972 returned a minority parliament, with the Pierre Trudeau led Liberals just a couple of seats ahead of Robert Stanfield’s Conservatives. The Creditistes under Real Caouette had 16 members, all from Quebec. My party, the New Democrats led by David Lewis, won 31 seats and thus held the balance of power. Parliament was to open on Jan. 3, 1973.

I remember a cold, snowy Ottawa evening. Our family had checked into two adjoining rooms in the Chateau Laurier earlier in the day and our three young sons were pleased to have a room to themselves where they could jump up and down on the beds. After supper we all walked over to Parliament Hill where the centennial flame was burning. Looking up through its flickering glow to the Peace Tower looming out of the winter darkness, illuminated by lights still burning in the parliament buildings, we shared a quiet pride that I had, after six years of campaigning, finally made it here, a member of the nation’s most important governing body.

Ruth said how proud she was that I was there, that it was an accomplishment. I felt a combination of fulfillment and ambitious anticipation. I wanted to leave my mark, to make my part of Canada a better place for my having been elected, to achieve something in however brief a period of time the fates would allow me to be there.

The opening of Parliament was the next afternoon. We new opposition MPs crowded into the Senate entrance from where we could barely hear the Governor General reading the Speech from

the Throne. My colleagues and I in the NDP took pride in the fact that David Lewis had been able, by virtue of our balance of power, to influence the government’s agenda.

Afterwards we went to a reception in the Railway committee room. In the crush and noise our weary and bored seven-year-old loudly announced his displeasure. As we were debating where we could park him, the Prime Minister entered the room. Noticing this unhappy little boy in the large crowd, he made a beeline straight for him, squatted down and began to talk to him. The legendary Trudeau charisma worked. Patrick, thoroughly charmed, calmed right down, Trudeau moved on, and my wife and I relaxed and enjoyed ourselves.

That night we attended dinner and a formal dance at Rideau Hall. I recall Ruth and I dancing close to the Trudeaus and being struck by what a graceful pair they made and how young and lovely Margaret was.

Some days later, during a lull in Question Period, I sent a brief note by page to the prime minister across the aisle, thanking him for his thoughtful gesture toward my son and confessing that there was now, at least for the present, one Liberal in the family!

He had trouble reading my handwriting, and Mitchell Sharp had to help him decipher it. Then he looked around for me. But my seat location gave meaning to the term backbencher: finally referring to the printed seating plan, he located me, caught my eye and gestured. We exchanged brief smiles and that was that – the closest I ever came to Trudeau in my year-and-a-half in the House. But Ruth and I have never forgotten his kind and spontaneous act of comforting a fretting little boy in all that vast

throng of dignitaries and VIPs.

As old-timers always say, Parliament was a different place in those days. There was no television in the chamber. The House sat five days and three evenings a week. There were no fixed sessions: we met at the pleasure of the government and seldom knew until the last minute when we would be rising for the often times too short holiday breaks.

As a member I had only one staff assistant (but she was superb and we have stayed in touch and remained friends ever since), and there was no funding for local constituency offices.

That Trudeau government fell after 17 months when the New Democrats failed to support a confidence vote on the budget. In the July election the Liberals were returned with a majority; we New Democrats lost our leader and half our seats, mine included.

Did we really accomplish anything significant in that year-and-a-half? History has generally been kind to the 1972-74-minority parliament. In a tense but not uncivil political atmosphere a lot of good legislation was enacted, some of it the result of NDP leverage – like the Assisted Home Ownership Plan, Petro-Canada, the Food Prices Review Board, old age pension increases and indexing, tax credits for contributions to political parties.

But nothing lasts forever in politics, and some of this has been superseded or repealed in the years since.

However, as I look back on an exciting and memorable period of my life I have no doubt that something important had been achieved and that it had all been worthwhile.

One shouldn’t ask for more.

Terry Grier represented Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ontario, as an NDP MP from 1972 to 1974.

Beyond the Hill pays tribute to departed members by Mark Masters

Senator Jacques Hébert



Katimavik champion.

Former Senator Jacques Hébert passed away Dec. 6, 2007 at the age of 84 after a distinguished career, which saw him represent Quebec in Canada's upper chamber for 15 years including two as opposition whip in the Senate.

Hébert, a Liberal and Trudeau loyalist, is perhaps best known for going on a 21-day hunger strike to protest a decision by the Conservative government of Brian Mulroney to cut the Katimavik program for Canadian youth, which he created in 1977. The native of Montreal lost 20 pounds during the 1986 protest, which resulted in the government changing its position and vowing to find a way to keep the program alive.

Hébert's passion for Canadian youth also spurred him to launch Canada World Youth in 1971. The organization has since afforded 30,000 Canadian youth the opportunity to travel the world on educational exchange programs.

Hébert has been honoured with several awards during his career including being named to the Order of Canada in 1978. In 2007 he received the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Distinguished Service Award. The honour was bestowed upon him at the Association's Annual General Meeting in Ottawa last May.

Milton Klein



The father of Canada's hate crimes legislation passes on.

The father of Canada's hate-crimes legislation passed away Dec. 31, 2007 at the age of 97. Milton Klein, a Montreal Liberal MP, first introduced hate-crime legislation to the House of Commons in 1964.

Klein introduced a private member's bill, C-21, which would "outlaw not only Nazi-type hatred, but all hatred," and would have imposed stiff penalties on anyone convicted of distributing hate literature. The legislation died on the order paper when the Liberal minority government was defeated.

Klein was re-elected in 1965, and the following year the government amended the Criminal Code to include crimes "motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factor."

Klein, the son of Hungarian immigrants also played a role in determining the design of the Canadian flag by advising prime minister Lester Pearson to only have one Maple Leaf present instead of the three originally favoured by the Liberal leader.

He stepped down as an MP in 1968.

Aside from politics Klein was also very active in the Jewish community with both the Canadian Jewish Congress and Israel Bond Organization.

Klein is survived by his two daughters.

Frank Hamilton



War hero and flying ace dies at 86.

Former Progressive Conservative MP Frank Hamilton passed away on February 1, 2008 at the age of 86. Hamilton represented the riding of Swift Current-Maple Creek in Saskatchewan from 1972 to 1984.

During his time in office Hamilton served on agriculture, defence, transportation and veterans' affairs committees.

As a fighter pilot in the Second World War, he won the Distinguished Flying Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. After returning from the war, Hamilton flew transport in the Arctic and helped train NATO pilots.

Before turning to politics, Hamilton served on the board of grain commissioners in 1961 and was chief commissioner for Winnipeg from 1962 to 1970.

The funeral for Hamilton took place in Moose Jaw on Feb. 8.

He is survived by his wife Wanda, brother Gavin and his grandchildren.

Are we ready for a Federal Primary Elections Law?

by Keith Penner

“Among the difficulties in the American approach to primary campaigns is that of the enormous cost to candidates. ”



Keith Penner.

Lately, like many other Canadians, I have been a keen observer of the United States primary election system. While it appears to be very democratic compared to our nominating process, it does have some inherent problems.

Among the difficulties in the American approach to primary campaigns is that of the enormous cost to candidates. In addition, there are significant differences in the nomination procedure across various states.

Most significant in these state-wide differences, as they relate to primaries, is whether the nominating process is closed, semi-open or open. In a closed system, only registered members of a party can participate in the nomination of that party's candidate. A semi-open system allows for an eligible voter, without party affiliation, to vote in any one (and one only) of the parties' primaries along with the designated partisan voters. In the entirely open system, there are no membership restrictions on participation in the nominating process. If you are an eligible voter, you may choose to vote in any one of the parties' primaries.

If Canada were to have a primary elections process, it seems clear that only the

closed system would have any chance of being accepted. Thus, to be able to vote for the nomination of a party's candidate, you would need to be a member of that party. No political party in Canada would accept as legitimate letting non-party persons have a say in their candidate selection.

An effective closed system would require rules as to who in the party is eligible to vote in a primary. As well, it would need to be decided if the party itself would conduct these nominations or if it would be preferable to have the oversight of an independent body.

In my view, it is Elections Canada that should supervise primary elections. As well, it should be determined by law which party members are eligible to vote for the nomination of their candidate.

The proposed law would stipulate that to vote for a party's candidate in a nomination, the party member would need to be in good standing with the party for at least a year. Only party members who are eligible to vote in a general election would be qualified to participate in a primary. Further, there would need to be a residency requirement of one year in the constituency where the nominating vote was to be cast.

The Federal Primary Elections Law would set a day for the nomination of all the candidates for all the political parties. This primary election date should be at least one year in advance of the General Election (which is now also a fixed date). Spending limits would be imposed. Further, the law would allow for independent candidates seeking election apart from any party affiliation.

What would a Federal Primary Elections Law achieve? It would not, of course, determine who could or could not be a party member. It would, however, define who is eligible to vote for a party's candidate in a nomination. Thus, such a law would prevent candidates from signing up non-Canadian citizens and those who are not of voting age. It would do away with the practice of "parachuting in" voters with special interests from outside the riding. Most importantly, it would eliminate the appointment process for party candidates.

The democratic system is enhanced and made more vibrant when free and fair elections occur at every level. A Federal Primary Elections Law would ensure that democracy is at work in the selection of candidates for a general election.

Living it up, West Coast Style



Above: Brian White, Jack Murta, Hugh Anderson and Anthony Abbott. Right: Doug Rowland with Judd and Kay Buchanan, hosts of the Chair's reception. Below left: Harry Olausen, Simma Holt, Hugh Anderson, Roger Simmons and Darlene Murphy. Below right: Aboard HMCS Regina. Below centre: the beautiful B.C. Legislature.



Mark your calendars

Spring time in Ottawa.

The Annual Tulip Festival is in full swing.

What a great time to get away from it all and return to the halcyon days of your term in Parliament!

**The Annual General Meeting
of the
Canadian Association of
Former Parliamentarians
will be held May 11 to 13, 2008.**

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

Planning is also underway for a summer Alberta regional meeting in Edmonton, June 22 - 24, 2008.

An autumn Québec regional meeting in Québec City, October 19 - 21, 2008 is being planned to take advantage of the exciting events during that city's 400th anniversary celebrations.